

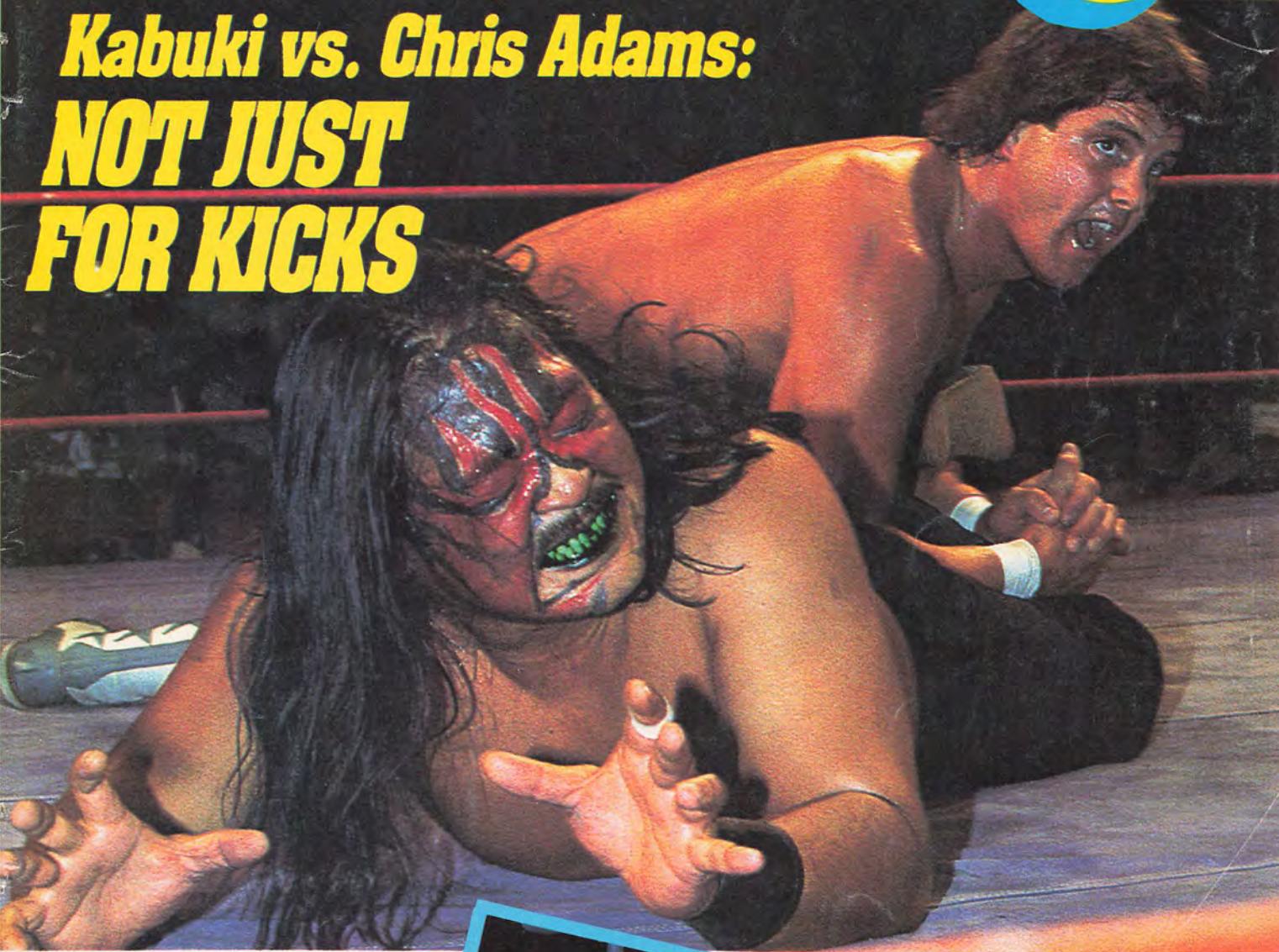


Inside

STEAMBOAT VS. SANTANA:
MAKE THIS MATCH NOW!

Wrestling

**Kabuki vs. Chris Adams:
NOT JUST
FOR KICKS**



**After The Battle
Of The Champions:
MAGNUM T.A.'S
POST-FLAIR DESPAIR**



**The Freebirds Flyin' High:
"WE WANT THE
ROAD WARRIORS!"**

**JIM CORNETTE:
"WHO SAYS
YOU CAN'T
BUY HAPPINESS?"**



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INSIDE

Wrestling

CONTENTS/NOVEMBER 1985

6 SINCERELY YOURS
WWF Pro . . . And Con; A Former Magnum Fan; More Terry Taylor

8 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK by Peter King
Women should not be wrestling referees

10 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR by Stu Saks
An NWA disgrace

12 ON THE ROAD with Craig Peters
Outspoken response to criticisms of the WWF

14 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS by Bill Apter
All the latest news as of press time

18 THE INSIDER by Eddie Ellner
What is a rulebreaker?

22 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS
Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches

24 MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING
The Russians, Tito Santana, Magnum T.A., and more

26 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
Don Kernodle, Jesse Barr, Mark Youngblood, and Domenic DeNucci

27 CAPSULE PROFILE #112
A mini-biography plus pinup of Billy Jack Haynes

29 KABUKI VS. CHRIS ADAMS: NOT JUST FOR KICKS
This feud means a great deal to a great many people

32 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
The Top 15 rankings in seven important categories

33 INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS
The most comprehensive championship directory anywhere

**34 AFTER THE BATTLE OF THE CHAMPIONS:
MAGNUM T.A.'S POST-FLAIR DESPAIR**
Can Magnum T.A. recover from his greatest disappointments ever?

36 STEAMBOAT VS. SANTANA: MAKE THIS MATCH NOW!
The match that *must* happen in the WWF

38 JIM CORNETTE: "WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS?"
The manager of The Midnight Express is interviewed on "The Hotseat"

**42 THE FREEBIRDS FLYIN' HIGH:
"WE WANT THE ROAD WARRIOR!"**
The boys from Badstreet want the AWA World tag team belts—now!

44 ONE ON ONE
Jake "The Snake" Roberts vs. Ted DiBiase

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- Roddy Piper vs. Greg Valentine—dog collar chain match
- Ric Flair vs. Harley Race—cage match—Flair regains NWA World title
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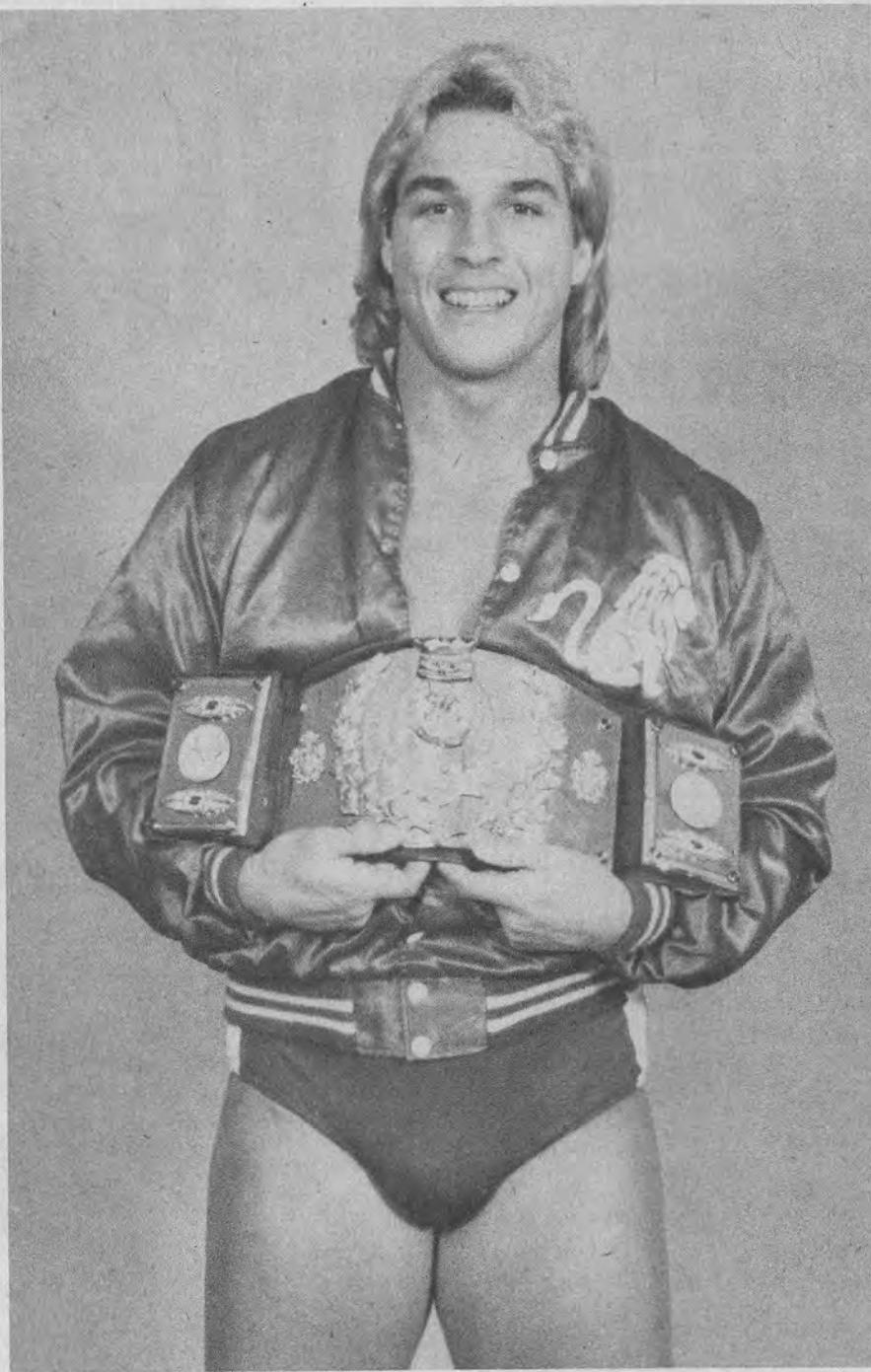
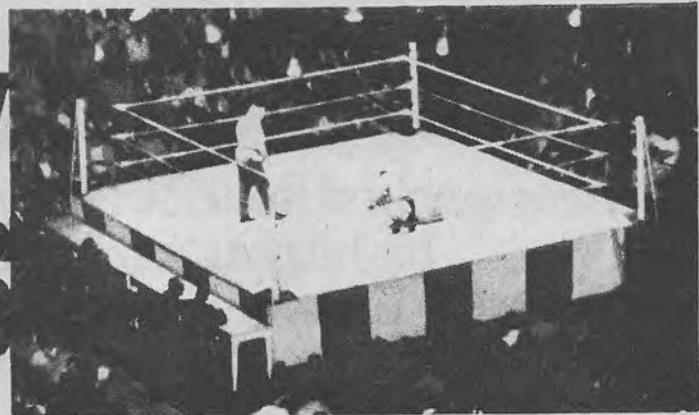


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BOX 48
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Terry Taylor has emerged as one of the top stars in wrestling, and the added coverage he has received in *Inside Wrestling* has greatly pleased Richard Morin. Richard believes that Terry will soon lift the NWA title from Ric Flair.

MORE TERRY TAYLOR

I enjoy reading *Inside Wrestling*, but I hope you will do more coverage on Terry Taylor. Just recently you have been giving Terry more coverage, and I hope it stays that way. In my opinion, Terry is the best wrestler in the world today, and when he gets the chance to wrestle Ric Flair, he'll prove it by taking the NWA World title from him. Terry, if you happen to be reading this, I'd just like to say that I am your number one fan, and I wish you the best of luck in all your future matches.

RICHARD MORIN
Edinburg, TX

WWF: PRO . . .

I am disgusted with your magazine. I don't even know why I buy it anymore. My friends and I have realized that ever since Bob Backlund lost his WWF heavyweight title, your publication's views toward the WWF have all been negative . . . and they get worse with each issue.

Every time a wrestler leaves the NWA or the AWA to come to the WWF, you claim how that wrestler is ruining his career by doing so (isn't that illegal or something?). You treat the WWF as if it were a graveyard for washed-up wrestlers. The worst thing of all is claiming that the WWF champion Hulk Hogan (a.k.a. "chump," in my opinion) is *not* a world champion.

Why do you do this? Maybe it's because the WWF is *the* wrestling federation that brought professional wrestling into the national spotlight? Maybe you hate Hulk Hogan so much be-

(Continued on page 47)



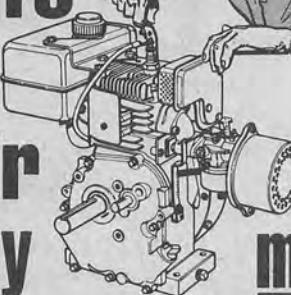
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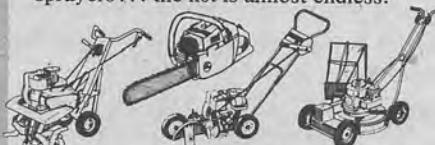
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

All right, women, get ready. I know I'm going to hear from you.

First of all, I'm a big believer in the women's movement. I am definitely in favor of equal pay for equal work. I think women cops are great, and women sanitation workers (garbage women?) are long overdue.

However, I think I have to draw the line at women referees.

Before you call me a sexist pig, let me explain. As of now, there is only one working woman referee, Lisa Marie. She has officiated many matches (including some title matches), and has, for the most part, done a very good job. In fact, Lisa Marie is a fine technical referee. Her reflexes are equal to those of any man's. So what's the problem?

Here's the problem. Before a recent match officiated by Marie, Terry Funk, during the introductions, removed his poncho and his cowboy hat and handed them to ring attendant Mel Phillips. Phillips put Funk's hat on his head, causing Terry to go berserk. Funk dragged Phillips into the ring and beat him senseless. The helpless attendant was taken to a hospital, where his condition was guarded.

During the time Phillips was being beaten up, Lisa Marie helplessly yelled warnings to Funk to stop. But Funk took one look at the petite Marie and realized she had no way of stopping him.

A referee's job is to control the action—all the action—inside the ring. Lisa Marie, despite her excellent knowledge of the rules, does not have the commanding presence that a referee needs to be successful.

It is a great experiment allowing Lisa Marie to become a wrestling referee. But in other major sports—football, baseball, hockey, and basketball—there are no women officials, at least not on the major-league level. The reason for this is not sexist. It is safety.

Just ask Mel Phillips.

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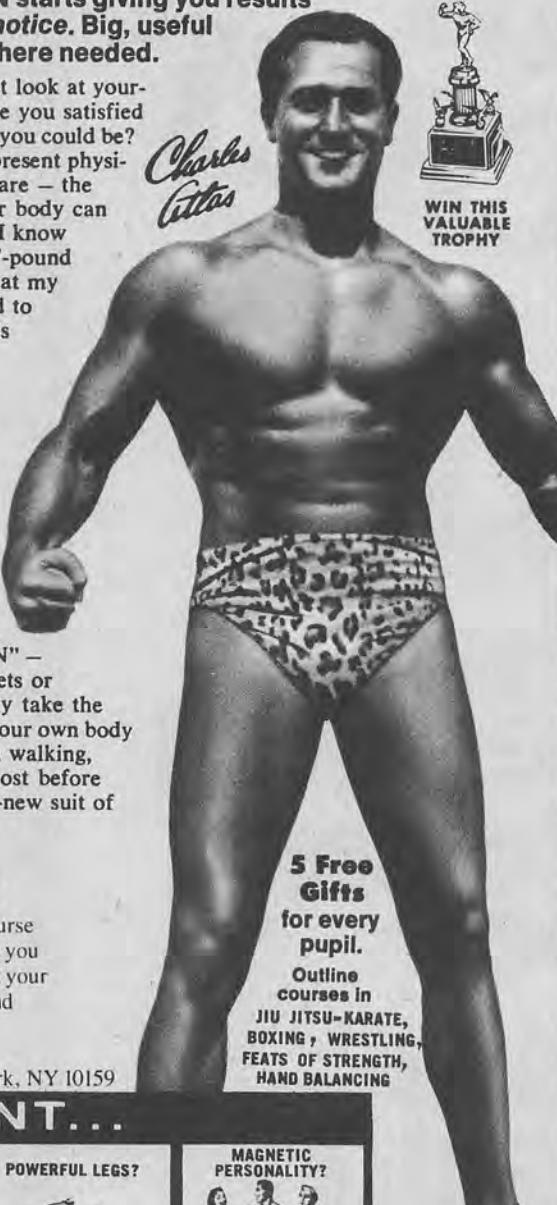
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**TOP
SECRET**

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Stu
Saks**

IT PLEASED ME greatly when I learned that The Rock 'n' Roll Express had captured the NWA World tag team title. Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are great athletes and fine representatives of the sport, but what makes me happiest about their new title reign is the fact that Ivan Koloff and Nikita Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev are no longer in a position to embarrass the NWA.

If I sat and spoke with NWA President Bob Geigel for two hours, I still don't think I'd understand why the NWA gave the Russians the right to use their choice of any two of the three team members for their title defenses. This arrangement provided an utterly absurd advantage for the champions.

While there were times when the opposition knew for sure which two men they would be facing (on July 9, for instance, when Ivan and Khrushchev lost the title in Shelby, North Carolina, Nikita was scheduled for a singles match out of town), the Russians were not required to divulge which two men they would be using until match time.

While the Russians could prepare their defense for one team, the challengers had to concentrate on three: Ivan and Nikita, Ivan and Khrushchev, and Khrushchev and Nikita. Given only a limited amount of time to prepare for a title match, often the challengers would have to guess which combination they would be facing and prepare themselves based on that guess. Much like a pitcher-batter confrontation in baseball in which the batter tries to guess what type of pitch he will be facing, the Russians would try to guess what their opposition

(Continued on page 54)

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INSTANTAN is not just another cover-up. It's an entirely new KIND of a product . . . that slips on as smooth as cream . . . sinks into the skin like a real suntan, without streaks or give-away signs of any kind and leaves you with a tan that's better, safer and more flattering than any sunbather or sunlamp sitter or pill-taker. Swim with it. Shower with it. But show it off as much as possible and watch them all envy that golden **satin-finish**, healthy-looking gloss.

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your skin. See how great it FEELS. Notice how great it looks! **That satiny golden sheen.** That healthy beachcomber look. That jet-setter vacation affluence you emanate. You'll have the look you've been envying on others. The glow of success. The appearance of well-being. And underneath your tan, your skin will take on a fine, smooth tone that only a well-cared-for complexion has.

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INSTANTAN is the triumphant result of persistant, patient, extensive scientific research!

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If you're not absolutely thrilled with what INSTANTAN does for you return it for full refund!

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I NEVER WOULD have thought that my "On The Road" column two months back would have elicited such a strong response. But just days after the September 1985 issue of *Inside Wrestling* hit the stands, mail started pouring in.

In case you missed that issue, the column printed a letter from Calvin Hayden, a wrestling fan from the Bronx, New York. Calvin was extremely critical of the WWF in general, and of Mr. T, Cyndi Lauper, Dave Wolff, Wendi Richter, and Hulk Hogan in particular.

At the end of that column, I noted that it would be interesting to see how Calvin's fellow readers react to his opinions.

Indeed, it seems that while many readers do support Calvin's view and resent what the WWF is doing, there are also many who are fascinated by current developments in the WWF.

In response to Calvin Hayden's letter in the September 1985 *Inside Wrestling*, here are representative samples from letters defending the WWF:

Alfred Ticineto, North Babylon, NY: "I would like the opportunity to respond to the letter written by Calvin Hayden criticizing the WWF. I will not resort to petty insults and ridiculous name-calling as did Mr. Hayden. I can make a point and express my feelings without being childish.

"Though I see nothing wrong with Vince McMahon's entertainment approach to wrestling [and I have been a serious wrestling fan for over 10 years], I do believe that Vince tends to go a bit overboard. But some of Mr. Hayden's remarks were unjust as well as uncalled for.

"Concerning Cyndi Lauper: Calvin is certainly entitled to his opinion. If, however, she is as lousy a singer as he claims, she would not be one of the hottest rock stars in the country. He is wrong stating that she has no business in wrestling as a manager. When ex-rock star Jimmy Hart suddenly decided to become a manager, he received no criticism at all, and Lauper has been unjustly criticized. Why is her case so different from Hart's?

"Concerning Mr. T: It was ridiculous when Andy Kaufman wrestled Jerry Lawler. Kaufman was not an athlete, and we all remember what Lawler did to him. Mr. T is an athlete, and though he is not quite in the class of Paul Orndorff or Roddy Piper, T handled himself quite well in WrestleMania.

"And concerning Hulk Hogan: First, Calvin sunk really low by making fun of the Hulk's given name. While Hogan doesn't have the skills of Ric Flair, he is much



Cyndi Lauper

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

more of a champion and a man than the 'Nature Boy' is. At least the Hulkster has never resorted to putting a bounty on the head of a top contender. Hulk Hogan is a man to be respected and admired.

"Calvin Hayden, and every other American, has a right to freely express his opinions. But I request that he and all other letter writers refrain from the name-calling. The insults not only make the writer sound foolish, they also tarnish the reputation of your fine publications."

Todd Justice, Pikeville, KY: "Calvin Hayden's letter to Craig Peters' 'On The Road' column was extremely one-sided. I also subscribe to *Inside Wrestling* and *The Wrestler* and feel the only letters you print are opposing the World Wrestling Federation.

"I've been watching wrestling for five years, and the rock 'n' wrestling connection is the most exciting thing I've seen. Mr. Hayden not only put down Mr. T, Hulk Hogan, Wendi Richter, and Dave Wolff, but he had the nerve to say that



Mr. T & Hogan

Cyndi Lauper can't sing and doesn't know how to make records. He also went on to say that Tina Turner, Deniece Williams, and Madonna could easily outsing her. When I saw this letter, I had a fit! Cyndi can outsing any of those stars with a sore throat, and my friends agree with me. Six top 10 hits in a row and the most successful debut album of all time proves that. She also knows much more about wrestling than you give her credit for; she has given Wendi Richter great advice and has been taught by Capt. Lou Albano how to manage to make sure her girl wins. Don't forget—it was Cyndi who turned Albano's life around.

"Mr. Hayden, I suggest you improve your taste in music and wrestling before you open your big mouth."

Rob Thomas, Philadelphia, PA: "Calvin Hayden's letter in the September 1985 'On The Road' was the biggest piece of trash I've read in my entire life. Calvin must be brainwashed by all the rest of the anti-WWF propaganda printed in *Inside Wrestling* and all the other wrestling magazines. All he did was engage in name-calling. Cyndi Lauper can't sing? I wish I couldn't sing as much as she can't sing, Calvin; maybe having one of the most successful albums of all time means to you that she can't sing, but several million record-buyers and plenty of rock 'n' roll critics can't be wrong. Hulk Hogan a clown? You're the clown, Calvin, because all you can do is make fun of Hulk Hogan's real name. Very intelligent, Calvin. Your entire letter was anti-WWF propagandistic crap. Wake up and see the light, Calvin: The WWF has done more for wrestling in the past two years than the NWA has done in all 80 years of its existence. And that's a fact."



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SGT SLAUGHTER

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NAMES MAKI

Tully Blanchard says that he's willing to offer **Magnum T.A.** as many rematches for the U.S. title that he wants.

"I'm not afraid of this matinee idol," Blanchard told *Inside Wrestling*, "and I'm not afraid to put the title up as many times as he wants. Hell, if that's the way to convince the fans that I'm superior to Magnum, then it's the easiest way I can think of!"

Blanchard won the title in Charlotte, North Carolina, when his valet, **Baby Doll**, made it to ringside disguised as a security officer (Baby Doll was supposed to be the valet for **Dusty Rhodes** at the time this match took place) and slipped Blanchard a roll of coins. Blanchard used the coins on T.A. to help score the pinfall.

The singles championship situation in Florida underwent a major upheaval in the 30 days since the October 1985 issue of *Inside Wrestling* reached your hands.



TULLY BLANCHARD

Hercules Hernandez had obtained a lock on both the Southern and Florida titles. But shortly after that happened, Hernandez vacated both championships and left the Sunshine State. Conflicting reports abound as to the reasons why he left, though many feel that Hernandez was afraid of failure in his series of \$5,000 benchpress challenges with **Billy Jack Haynes**.

Tournaments were set up to establish new champions for both those titles. In the final round of the Southern



RICK RUDE

title tournament, **Rick Rude** defeated Mike Graham in Orlando, Florida. In the final round of the Florida title tournament, **Jack Hart** received some assistance from his manager, **Percy Pringle**, to again send Graham down to defeat. Hart, you'll remember, was the man who ran his record to 0-131 before recently claiming his first victory as a pro.

There are quite a few more title changes this month—and if you haven't caught on to the habit of

checking out the "Inside Wrestling Roll Call of Champions" every issue, take a look. All the new champions since last issue can be easily found by noting the asterisks next to the particular championship that changed hands.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage is gearing up for a series of matches with WWF World heavyweight champion **Hulk Hogan**. "I am the lord and master of the ring," Savage says, "and Hulk Hogan's gonna know that, real, real soon!" Savage, who most recently held the Mid-Southern heavyweight title and feuded heavily with **Jerry Lawler**, is arguably the most dangerous opponent the Hulkster has agreed to face since winning the title from **The Iron Sheik** last January.

Exotic Adrian Street will be appearing in *Grunt: The Wrestling Movie*, which is slated for an October release . . . **Lanny Poffo** doesn't seem to be meeting with much success in his WWF stint . . . The feud between **The Fabulous Ones** and the Mid-South-



KEIRN & LANE

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

ern tag team champions, **The Sheepherders**, is one of the bloodiest that the Mid-Southern area fans have seen in years.

"America's Team" is a phrase that viewers of Atlanta SuperStation WTBS have come to associate with the Atlanta Braves. But soon, viewers of WTBS will be linking that phrase with a dynamic new tag team: **Dusty Rhodes** and **Magnum T.A.** Look for "America's Team" to make the National tag team title, held by **Ole** and **Arn Anderson**, their first target. The Andersons recently broke into T.A.'s dressing room while he was taping an interview and savagely beat Magnum while the cameraman looked on help-



ARN & OLE ANDERSON

lessly. On the way out of the dressing room, Ole took a swipe at the camera, which fell to the ground; it reportedly cost nearly \$3,000 to repair the camera.

You remember **Little John**, the protege of **The Fantastics** in the World Class area a few months back? Well, he's now wrestling in the Mid-Southern area and known as **Big John Harris** . . . In addition to the challenge being mounted by **The Fabulous Freebirds**, **The Road Warriors** are having to square off against **The Long Riders**, **Bill** and **Scott Irwin** . . . Speaking of The Freebirds, all three of the boys from Badstreet have recently been wearing makeup into the ring, painting their faces like a Confederate



BUDDY ROBERTS

flag, red with blue stars-and-bars stripes in an "X" across their faces. **Buddy Roberts** first started wearing the makeup in Japan last year, and it looks great!

North American heavyweight champion **The Nightmare** has been the center of a huge controversy in the Mid-South. It seems that while **Eddie Gilbert** had been managing The Nightmare's career, there was never more than a verbal agreement between the two men. **Sir Oliver Humperdink** recently came into the area and

offered Nightmare a lucrative sum of money to sign with him. "Gilbert's been ruining your career," Humperdink told Nightmare, and the champion agreed. Nightmare signed with Humperdink, and now a major Gilbert-Humperdink feud is in the offing, with Nightmare and the North American title caught in the middle!



HECTOR GUERRERO

More wrestling movie news: **Hector Guerrero** and **Curt Hennig** are the wrestling doubles for actors **Adam Baldwin** and **Mike Jolly**, who play a pair of policemen who moonlight as pro wrestlers in the movie *Bad Guys*. The movie also features **Goliath**, **Bengali**, **Alexis Smirnoff**, and **Jay York**. The wrestling coordinators for the film are former wrestler-promoter-referee **Gene LeBell** and Hector Guerrero's brother **Armando Guerrero**.

That's all for now, wrestling fans. See you at the matches!

BACK ISSUES OF



Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of INSIDE WRESTLING, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!



AUGUST 1984

July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbysko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

September 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Graham, Brooks, Bruiser.

November 1974/Stories include: Garvin, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

June 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Abdullah, LeDuc, Brisco.

August 1975/Stories include: Valentine, Garea, Rhodes, Sammartino.

September 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Funk, Valiants, Gagne.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Strongbow, Lewin, Brazil.

March 1976/Stories include: Ladd, Funk, Sheik, Robinson.

April 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Albano, Flair, Brisco.

June 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Bockwinkel, Flair, Mascaras.

August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

September 1976/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Hansen, Mascaras.

October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.

February 1977/Stories include: Andre, Funk, Sammartino, Gagne.

May 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Putski, Sheik, Race.

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniels.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

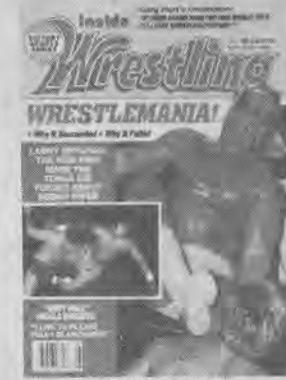
July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

October 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1980/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.



AUGUST 1985

October 1979/Stories include: Rich, Rhodes, Backlund, Putski.

November 1979/Stories include: Snuka, Heenan, Race, Backlund.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

March 1980/Stories include: Flair, Rich, Funk, Duncum.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

July 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Von Erich, Superstar, Blassie.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

February 1981/Stories include: Backlund, DiBiase, Bravo, Anderson.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

November 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Andre, Snuka.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humpertink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbysko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

January 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Rich, Superstar, Piper.

February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbysko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

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OCTOBER 1982

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

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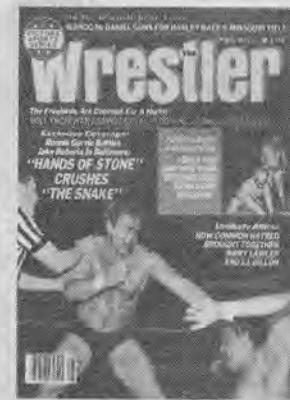
February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

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May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.



AUGUST 1984

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

November 1980/Stories include: Rich, Hogan, Snuka, Super Destroyers.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Sammons, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

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September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putske, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

March 1983/Stories include: Piper, Reed, Valiant, Roberts.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Ti-ger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Ondorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

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June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

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September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

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September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

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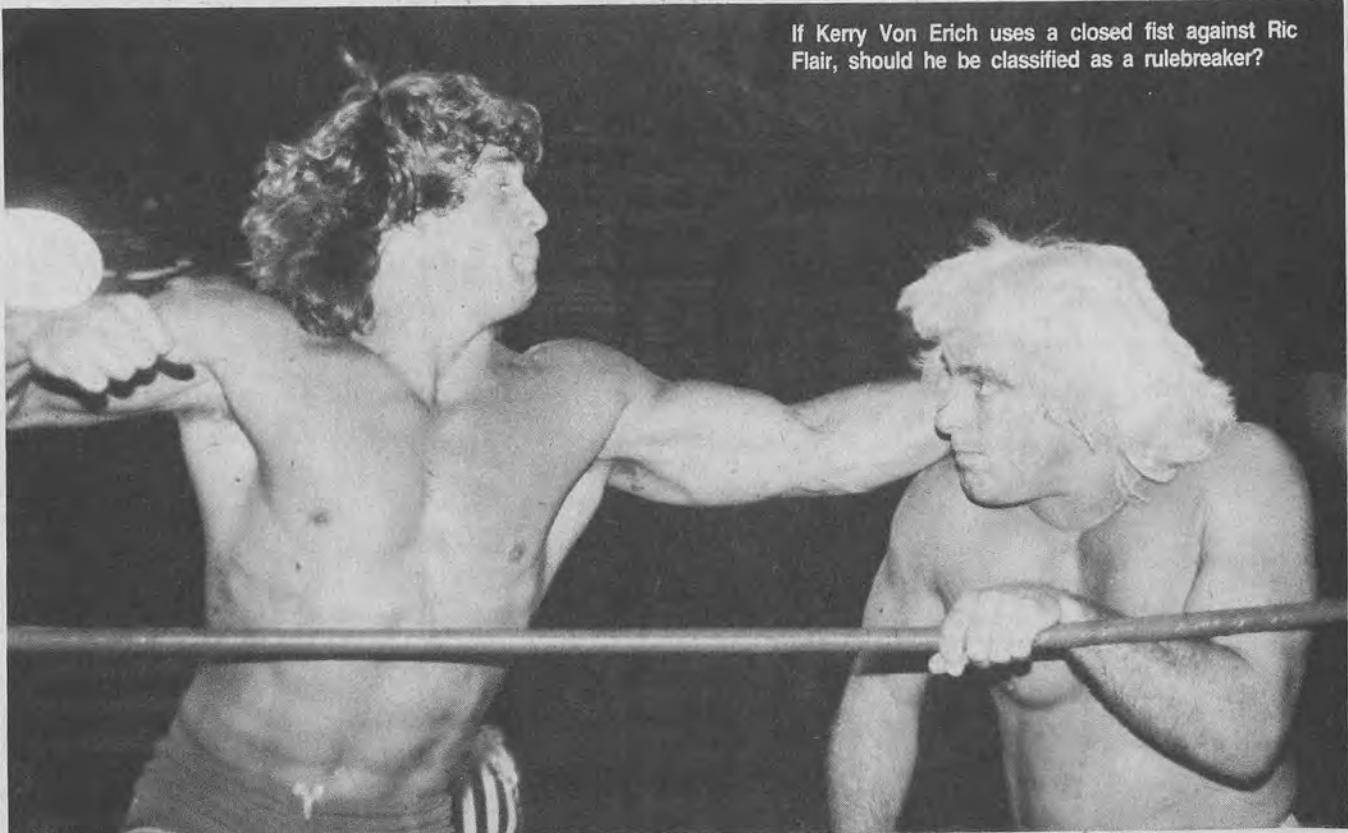
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THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

If Kerry Von Erich uses a closed fist against Ric Flair, should he be classified as a rulebreaker?



WHAT IS A rulebreaker? When I first posed that question back in the July 1985 *Inside Wrestling*, I had doubts myself. At the time, I asked, is a "rulebreaker" a definition of wrestling style or a reflection of fan popularity? I was hoping for one T-shirt-hungry fan to untangle the entire sordid mess. Instead, well, instead this: Vickie Moore, who signed herself a "real fan" (as opposed to what, a polyurethane fan?) wrote "... a rulebreaker is a wrestler who under pressure must break the rules because of either a lack of talent or education." Yes, Vickie, you know that I've always been a strong advocate for

wrestlers to pursue their post-graduate studies, but mine is just a lone voice in the wind.

Grace Monroe pegged a rule-breaker as a wrestler "who would do anything for money." Of course, Grace, we all know that fan favorites are not in this game for the money (jeez).

Of particular interest were entries from Jim Gentry and Mark Pucci. Mark listed four rules that must be observed for a wrestler to qualify as a "rulebreaker," of which numbers two and three are especially relevant. "2. He should be booed all of the time, and, 3. He should be deeply despised by the fans."

Jim correctly claims that "all wrestlers break ring rules today," then adds, "to me a rulebreaker is one who shows public contempt toward us fans who pay the freight."

Jim and Mark make the important distinction between in-ring and out-of-ring activity. Whether it's Kamala sculpting someone's face with his bare teeth or Kerry Von Erich throwing a punch with a closed fist, *all wrestlers break the rules*. The difference is in the fan's perception of their actions. Thus, according to their interpretation, a rulebreaker becomes a reflection of fan sentiment, and as

(Continued on page 20)

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

fickle as that may be, it's a definition that this writer can live with.

Most of the letters reflected an overbearing, holier-than-thou attitude of fans partial to fan favorites, fans who felt the actions of rulebreakers were despicable and reprehensible, without ever pausing in their denunciation to enlighten us as to the exact nature and qualifications of a rulebreaker—which was the entire object of the contest in the first place.

However, as Thomas Paine remarked (or was it Dan Shocket?), "I may not agree with what you say, but I'll defend with my life your right to say it." Here, in print, is a selection of entries suffering from a poverty of intellect but which we munificently grant a public forum.

From Livingston, NY: "I use the word rulebreaker to describe the wrestlers I hate . . ." The words that they use to describe you have been censored.

From Pittsburgh: "A rulebreaker in my terms is anyone playing dirty that I personally dislike . . ." And this from a fan who claims to love my column.

From Downtown Bruno Lauer of Short Hills, Pennsylvania, a fan who has been moved to write to this column so often I suspect he has bowel problems: "A rulebreaker is not hated by the fans because he cheats—a rulebreaker cheats because he is hated by the fans." To Bruno—who does not win a T-shirt—we are sending a fresh frozen Perdue chicken and a hardboiled egg, so he can grapple with the question of which item came first.

In fairness to Bruno, the rest of his letter bore right into the heart of the matter. "Due to the fact that promoters want to please the fans, if a Tully Blanchard or a Don Muraco wants to win a match—let alone a title—he has



Reader Bruno Lauer feels that Tully Blanchard is discriminated against and must make his own advantages. Steve Smith believes Tully is labeled a rulebreaker simply because he is obnoxious.

to create his own advantages." Bruno considers such former rulebreakers-turned-fan favorites as Sgt. Slaughter, Hulk Hogan, and Jimmy Snuka to be men who have taken the easy way out.

Steve Smith claims that a "wrestler's attitude and conduct outside the ring greatly affects his popularity." He too mentions Tully Blanchard as a "wrestler who is hated because he is obnoxious but does not cheat excessively." While I agree with Steve's basic premise, I feel it's my duty to report to him the sad fact that Tully Blanchard does excessively cheat.

Maybe it's because I'm still getting my feet wet with this column, or perhaps I'm just sensitive by nature, but I do, in all sincerity, wish I could print all the letters I received. But I can't, and it is now

time to announce the winner of the contest, that lucky devil who is about to receive a brand new, plum red, 1985 PWI T-shirt.

The winning entry belongs to Jamie Stecker of Woodmere, New York, who wrote, simply but eloquently: "a rulebreaker can exist only in a vacuum where there are no fans, and where good looks and personality are not rewarded all out of proportion. If two men wrestle in the presence of a referee and if one of those men punches, bites, uses a foreign object, or otherwise breaks the laws of wrestling, then he can correctly be defined as a rulebreaker." Yes, I know, it's 63 words, but I felt it appropriate to give a little bit of credit for breaking the rules. Congratulations to Jamie and my thanks to everyone else who wrote in. Remember, you don't need a contest to write.

I leave you this month with one final entry, which took the form of a poem (I think) and was submitted by Bernadette Hoffman of Goose Creek, South Carolina.

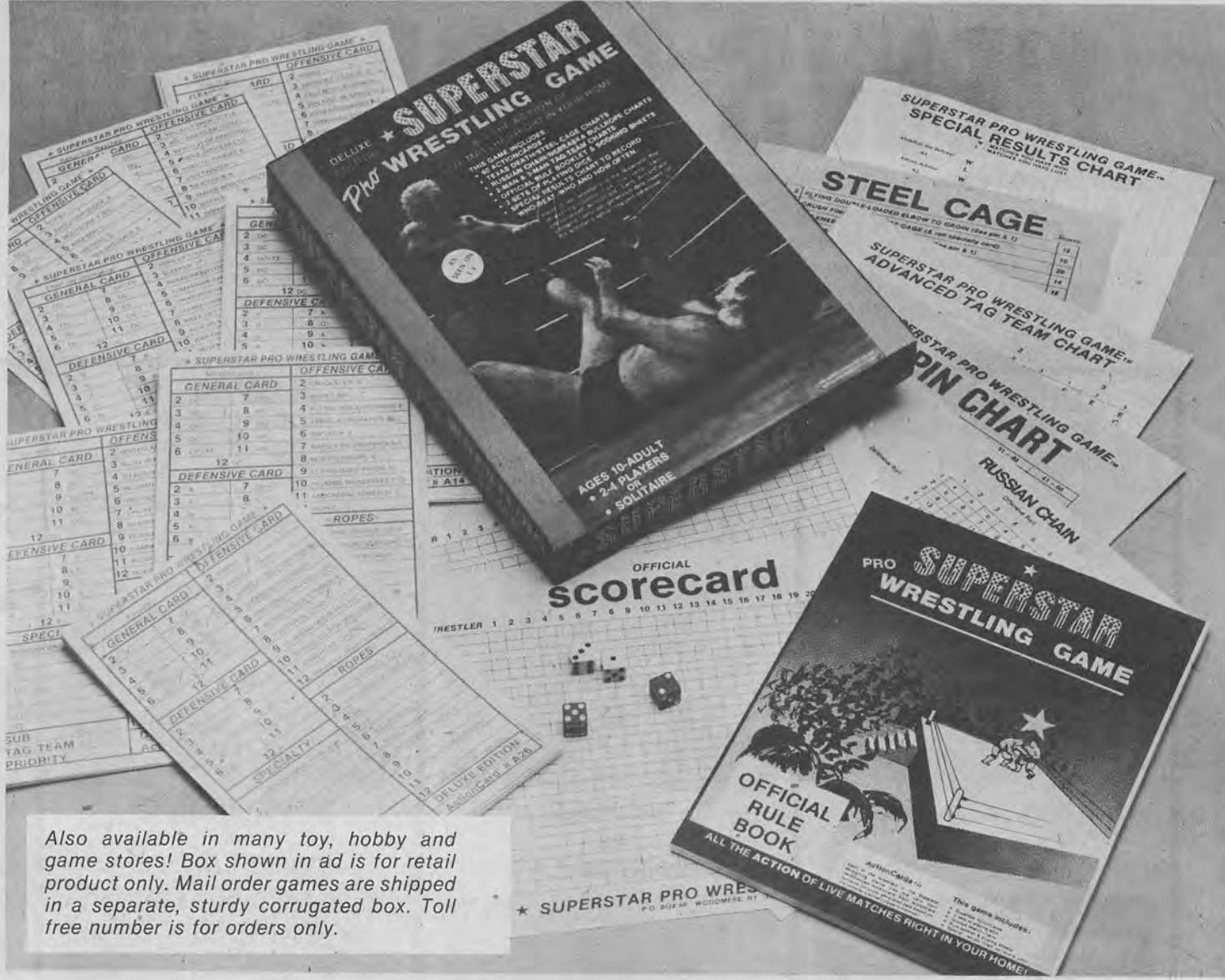
The Rulebreaker

He's a man of pride and dignity
He's hated everywhere
Yet arenas fill to capacity
Whenever he is there.

His style is disputable
The fans scream and cuss
He really tries his best
To intensify the fuss.

He swings his opponents across
Who now knows of his fate,
The Rulebreaker holds
his chin up high
Which makes the fans irate.

For Bernadette we have a two-week extension course at the Jack Kerouac School for Disembodied Poets and a copy of the booklet *Small Engine Repair: A Guide On How To Start Your Own Money-Making Business*. □



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CHICAGO, IL

By John Valentovich



GREG VALENTINE
vs.
JUNKYARD DOG



The Dog attacked Valentine with his collar and chain before the start of the match. J.Y.D. controlled most of the match as he was able to keep Valentine off-balance throughout. With the help of his manager, Jimmy Hart, Valentine was able to force the action out of the ring, where he was disqualified.

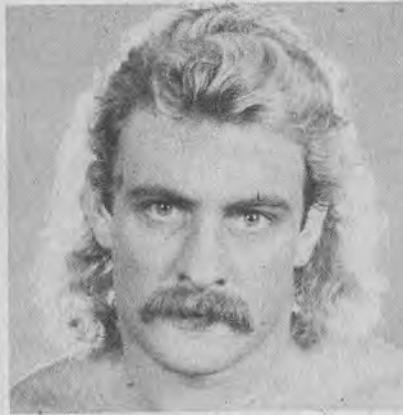
OTHER BOUTS: Nikolai Volkoff & The Iron Sheik defeated Mike Rotundo & Jim Brunzell ... Missing Link conquered Tony Garea ... Jim Neidhardt beat S.D. Jones ... Mad Dog Vachon defeated Rene Goulet ... Moondog Spot defeated Bobby Colt ... Mike Rotundo won a \$10,000, 14-man battle royal.

ATLANTA, GA

By Steve Hendrix



RIC FLAIR
vs.
MAGNUM T.A.



This rematch for the NWA title became a test of endurance as the wrestlers seemed bent on using up the entire 90-minute limit. Magnum reversed Flair's figure-four twice, executed his belly-to-belly suplex, and the champ pinned for the two-count. Flair, looking haggard and on the verge of defeat, threw Magnum over the top rope, drawing an automatic disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Ole & Arn Anderson defeated Dick Slater & Buzz Sawyer ... Jimmy Valiant beat Superstar Graham ... Black Bart bested Starship Eagle ... Thunderbolt Patterson outsmarted Bob Roop ... Pistol Pez Whatley & The Italian Stallion edged The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs ... Kevin Sullivan beat Rocky King.

COLUMBIA, SC

By Jack L. Murphy



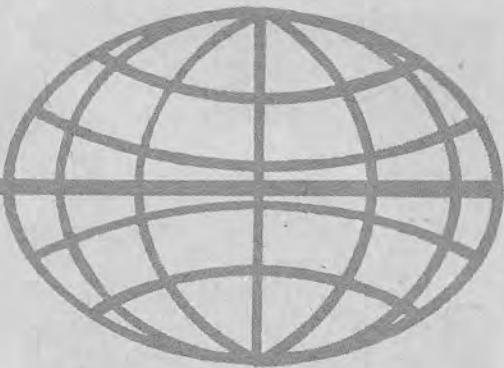
DUSTY RHODES
vs.
BUDDY LANDELL



"The American Dream" was accompanied to the ring with his 30-day valet, Baby Doll, to do battle with Buddy Landell for the NWA TV title. Landell and manager J.J. Dillon attacked Rhodes as Baby Doll shouted encouragement to Landell. Rhodes rallied with several bionic elbow smashes, but was again double-teamed. The referee soon disqualified Landell and Dillon.

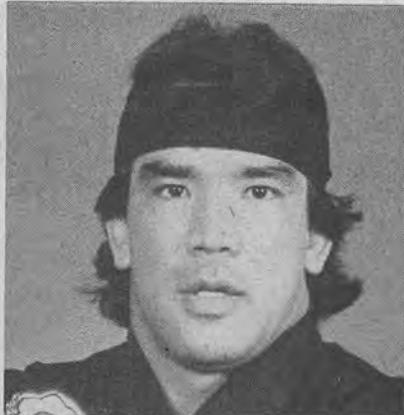
OTHER BOUTS: Magnum T.A. defeated Nikita Koloff by disqualification ... Jimmy Valiant defeated Konga the Barbarian ... Ron Bass toppled Kendo Nagasaki ... Johnny Tatum beat Lee Ramsey ... Gene Ligon defeated George South.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



UNIONDALE, NY

By Ernie Williams



RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
MAGNIFICENT MURACO

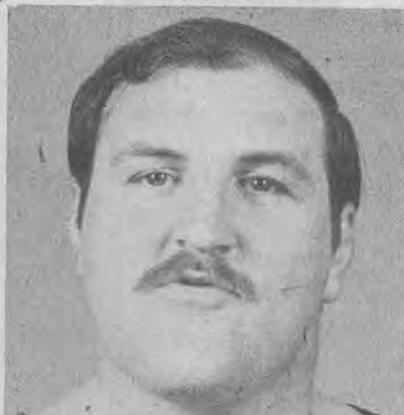


Steamboat roared into the ring and attacked Muraco. Muraco slunk away from the ring and sought counsel from Mr. Fuji. Fuji distracted Steamboat, allowing Muraco to sneak up from behind and hit his opponent. Muraco then hit Steamboat with a chair while Fuji held his leg. The referee disqualified Muraco and Fuji.

OTHER BOUTS: Hulk Hogan & Paul Orndorff defeated John Studd & Cowboy Bob Orton ... George Steele ripped Barry O ... Lanny Poffo pinned Gino Carabello ... Randy Savage defeated Jose Luis Rivera ... Tony Atlas beat Swede Hanson ... Brian Blair defeated Steve Lombardi ... Brutus Beefcake dispatched George Wells.

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ

By Marc Menachem



SGT. SLAUGHTER
vs.
LARRY ZBYSZKO



Slaughter strode into the ring taunting Zbyszko with the Americas belt. The incensed former champion attacked Slaughter and threw him out of the ring. The two banged each other with chairs and tables outside until Slaughter began gaining control. He threw Zbyszko into the ring, applied the Slaughter cannon and took the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors and The Freebirds (Michael Hayes & Terry Gordy) fought to a double-disqualification ... Rick Martel defeated Nick Bockwinkel ... Bob Backlund defeated Larry Sharpe ... Curt Hennig beat Boris Zurchov ... Greg Gagne defeated Ray Stevens.

CLEVELAND, OH

By Roman Kovach



JIMMY VALIANT
vs.
KONGA THE BARBARIAN



This exciting main event began with Valiant beating up on the bigger Konga. He punched, dropkicked, and suplexed the Barbarian, but couldn't get a pin. As Paul Jones shouted encouragement, Konga began to destroy Valiant. He headbutted Valiant three times and began to kick and punch him. The Barbarian was disqualified after he headbutted Valiant from the top rope.

OTHER BOUTS: Jimmy Valiant defeated Paul Jones in a special five-minute match ... Buzz Sawyer beat Arn Anderson ... Black Bart upended Ron Garvin ... The Midnight Express defeated Italian Stallion and Pez Whatley ... Kevin Sullivan and Dick Slater wrestled to a double-disqualification ... Thunderbolt Patterson defeated Bob Roop.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

SHELBY, NC: I hope you all read last issue's special examination of the Russian presence in professional wrestling. In case you didn't, let me just point out that *Inside Wrestling* presented a special issue that took a look at "The Red Menace: Will The Russians Conquer American Wrestling?" A major portion of that examination was a feature entitled "The Koloffs And Khrushchev: A Step Away From NWA Domination!" Well, now the Russian team is two steps away, since they recently lost the NWA World tag team title to Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, The Rock 'n' Roll Express. The losing combination was Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev (any two of the three Russians were allowed to defend the tag team belts) and if you ask me, I think the assessment given by a lot of people thus far is right on the money: The Russians spent way too much time concentrating on Nikita Koloff's July 6 title shot with Ric Flair—the tag team title loss came just three days later. Actually, I would say now that the Russians are *three* steps away from NWA domination—I don't see them doing much to add credibility to their claim as NWA six-man champs. And three steps is a long way from being at the head of the ruling class.

BALTIMORE, MD: I like my humble pie *ala mode*, please. Yes, time for ol' Matt to rescind an opinion from last issue's "Plain Speaking." I wrote about Rick Steamboat closing in on Greg Valentine's WWF Intercontinental title. And then, when you least expect it, Tito Santana comes into a Baltimore steel cage bout with Valentine for rematch No. 487, and I'm damned if the son of a gun doesn't walk away with the belt around his waist! And let me tell you something, I have a renewed respect for Tito, considering the way he won the title from "The Hammer." Seems that after taking a severe beating from Valentine, Santana decided to climb out of the cage just as Valentine decided to make a break for



TITO SANTANA

the door. Both men were moving slowly, due to the vast punishment they had received during the match. It was literally a race for victory. And just as Valentine was going through the door, Santana (who was on top of the cage) swung his right foot around and kicked the door shut in Valentine's face, knocking him backward. Santana made it out of the cage and into the record books. A spectacular effort, Tito—*Arriba!*

ATLANTA, GA: I feel sorry for Magnum T.A., but then wrestling is the kind of a sport where you're riding high atop the world one minute, and you're down in the dumps of despair the next. Magnum no longer has the U.S. heavyweight title (he lost that to Tully Blanchard). He no longer has top contender status to Ric Flair's NWA World title (he lost that when he lost the U.S. title). And he no longer seems

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

to have the drive that he once had—the drive to succeed, the drive to improve, the drive to excel. I'm sure that this is only a temporary setback for Magnum, though, because he's the kind of a wrestler who won't let this momentary disappointment keep him down for long. But maybe Magnum needs a change of pace to revitalize his career. And now that



MAGNUM T.A.

Terry Taylor is in the World Championship area, I suggest that perhaps these two old friends should form a tag team. It would be a spectacular combination, indeed! And you can bet that they would provide some stiff competition to the National tag team champion Andersons.

SHREVEPORT, LA: It's just like old home week. Cowboy Bill Watts is walking tall for America once again. "Capt. Redneck" Dick Murdoch is takin' care of business. All that the Mid-South area needs right now is for Dusty Rhodes to come in and reform his tag team of "The Outlaws" with Murdoch. But that's something else again; Murdoch and Watts are doing just fine, and it's great to see that Watts hasn't lost any of the fire and brimstone attitude and energy that made him so formidable a force on the wrestling scene in the '60s and early '70s. I think Gen. Skandor Akbar and his stable is in for a long series of disappointments. And I wouldn't be

surprised if The Nightmare (who prefers to call himself "The Champion," though I think "Nightmare" is a far more appropriate moniker) is unseated from the North American title by the time this magazine reaches the newsstands.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: I always get a little unnerved when I run across Precious Paul Ellering. He's a conniver with more tricks up his sleeve than Doug Henning, and I don't trust him. But trust or no trust, I sense that there's a great deal of boredom within the ranks of The Legion of Doom. The AWA has been failing to attract the caliber and level of tag team competition that the Warriors need to keep themselves busy (though I think that The Freebirds are more than capable of giving Hawk, Animal, and Paul their share of nervous moments in the ring). I mean, aside from the 'Birds, how many



ELLERING & THE WARRIORS

times can the Warriors beat up on the Hennigs and Von Raschke and Crusher and Greg Gagne? I've always said, a championship is only as good as the competition it's defended against—and the Warriors' AWA World title reign is being devalued faster than the Mexican peso these days. Something's going to happen soon. I don't know if that means that more tag teams will enter the AWA or that the Warriors will take the belts and throw them in AWA President Stanley Blackburn's face. I don't know. But *something* will happen. Soon. It has to. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



DON KERNODLE

The man known as "The Pride of the South" had sustained several serious neck, back, and knee injuries at the hands of Ivan and Nikita Koloff. To ensure a full recovery, doctors warned Kernodle to take a few months off before

returning to action, but the always-anxious Kernodle returned to the ring too soon. Following a painful comeback, Kernodle is now in semi-retirement, awaiting total recovery from his injuries. He tells us that he hopes to return to full ring action by the end of 1985.



MARK YOUNGBLOOD

The popular star, a former NWA World tag team champion, is currently wrestling in Kansas City. Mark and his brother, Jay, who was his partner as NWA tag champ, have gone their separate ways. Mark, who has said that he will be wrestling in singles competition for the next few months and concentrate on Central States champion Mr. Pogo in particular, has discarded his Indian-heritage name "Youngblood" in favor of his birth-given name, "Romero," for the time being.



JESSE BARR

Jesse Barr became very discouraged after he and Rick Rude lost the U.S. tag team championship to Wahoo McDaniel and Billy Jack Haynes. Barr, who also lost the Florida title in February, quickly disappeared from Florida, not

wishing to push for a rematch with McDaniel and Haynes. "Why should I stick around in an area where everyone claims I'm a crook and a cheat? I'm outta here!" Barr is currently wrestling in Puerto Rico, and is aiming for Carlos Colon's WWC heavyweight title.



DOMENIC DeNUCCI

The longtime WWF favorite is currently wrestling in the Montreal area, but reports that he is wrestling for the love of the sport and has no plans of going after any major titles. Domenic tells us he's content to remain active, but has no desire to become involved in a major drive for a title. "I'm just happy to be back in Canada wrestling on the same cards as my good friend, Dino Bravo," DeNucci told us. "Besides, it'd be tough wrestling Dino for his [Canadian International] belt!"

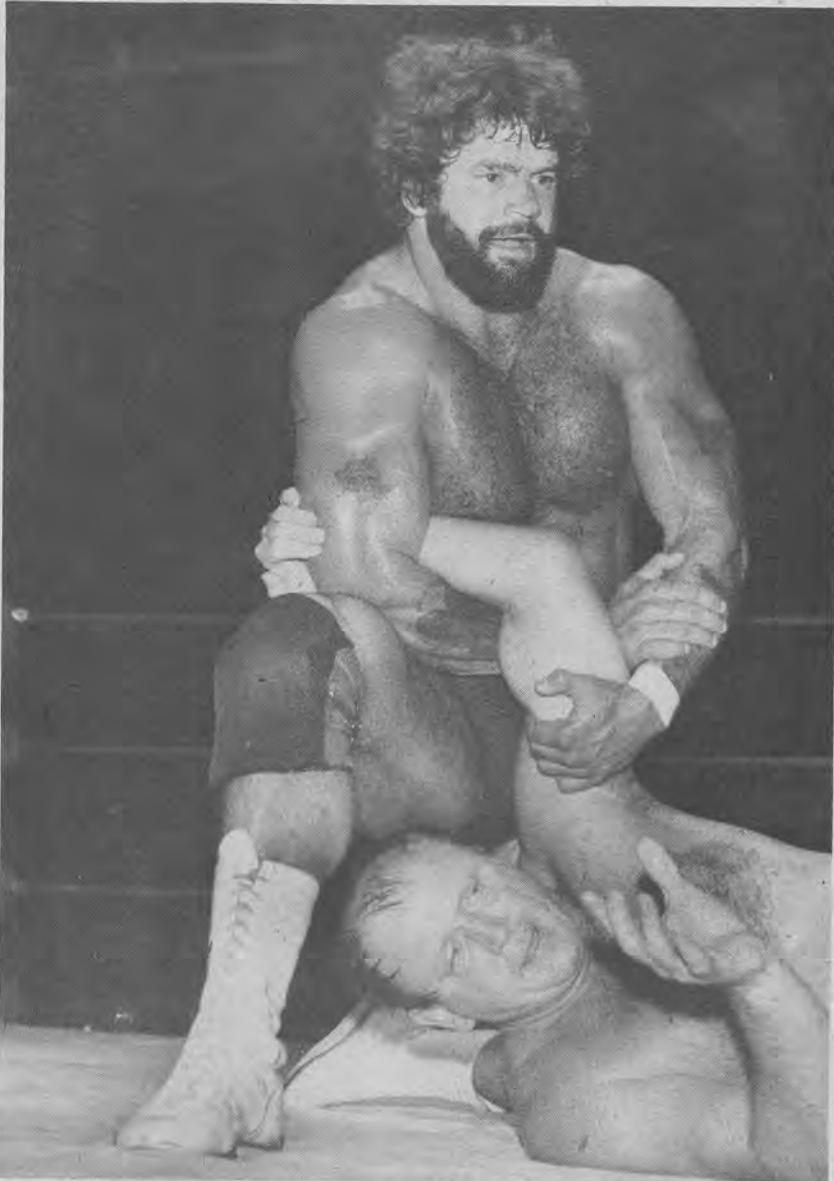
INSIDE WRESTLING

112

CAPSULE PROFILE

ORIGINALLY CAME Portland, Oregon, where, under the name Billy Jack, he held his first title, the Pacific Northwest championship ("That's where I grew up, and I'll always have a spot in my heart for Don Owen and all my Pacific Northwest fans") ... First received full national acclaim when he traveled to the Florida to meet his idol, Dusty Rhodes, in early 1984 ("I have to admit, I was kind of scared about leaving the PNW for the first time!") ... Established himself as a major force in the sport when he defeated Kendo Nagasaki for the Florida heavyweight title ("That match took place inside a steel cage, and it was one I'll never forget as long as I live!") ... Defeated Superstar Graham in a \$50,000 challenge match pitting full-nelson against full-nelson ("What a day that was, the spectacular Lords Of The Ring extravaganza in Florida. I finally shut Graham up—he was a thorn in my side for a long, long time") ... Captured Most Improved Wrestler of the Year honors for 1984 ("I don't know how I can thank the fans enough for honoring me in that way") ... Decided to travel to the WWF, but remained there for only one match ("I realized that it was the competition in the NWA, and the NWA World title, that meant the most to me") ... Wrestled in the World Class area, where he helped Sunshine

BILLY JACK HAYNES

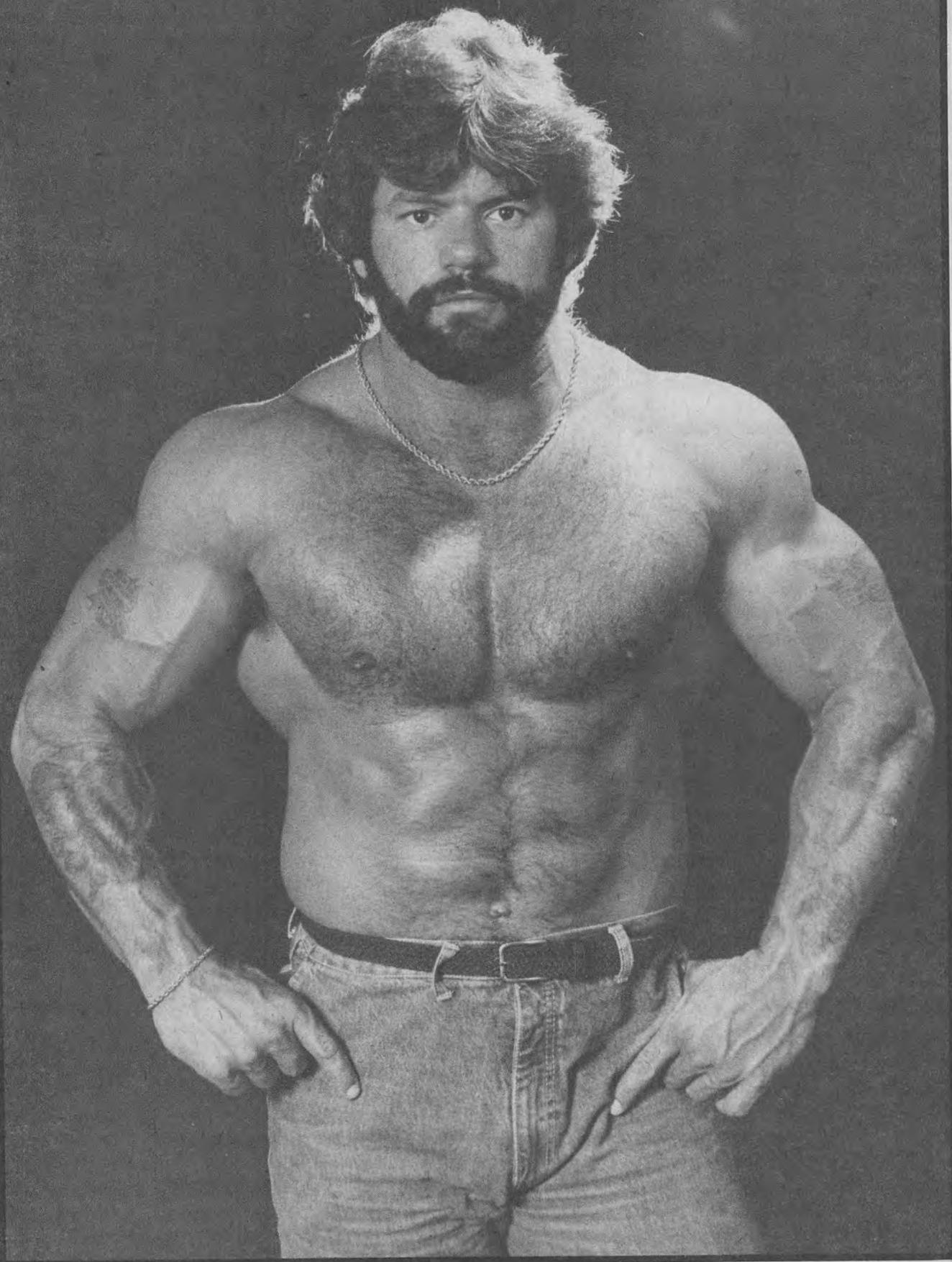


Next to Dusty Rhodes, Billy Jack Haynes had more respect for Dory Funk Jr. than any other wrestler. Upon learning this, Funk became enraged. Dory doesn't find it flattering to be second to Rhodes in anything. Accidentally, Billy became involved in a bitter feud with a man he had admired.

in her war against Texas rulebreakers ("She's a great girl, and she's working for a great cause") ... Changed his name from Billy Jack to Billy Haynes as a gesture of respect to his ailing father ("It was time for me to stand up and be recognized by my given name") ... Returned to the Pacific Northwest for a few months, and is currently wrestling once again in Florida,

da, where he and Wahoo McDaniel have captured the U.S. tag team title from Rick Rude and Jesse Barr ("They thought they were invincible—that was just their first mistake") ... Known as "The People's Choice," and now using the name Billy Jack Haynes, this muscular star's strength and charisma should keep him in the popularity ratings for a long time to come. □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



BILLY JACK HAYNES

Kabuki vs. Chris Adams:

KABUKI. MASTER OF the karate thrust. Possessor of the mysterious green fog. Bearer of multiple black belts in karate, kung-fu, and jujitsu.

Chris Adams. Master of the superkick. Possessor of a superb background in judo. Expert in both European and American styles of pro wrestling.

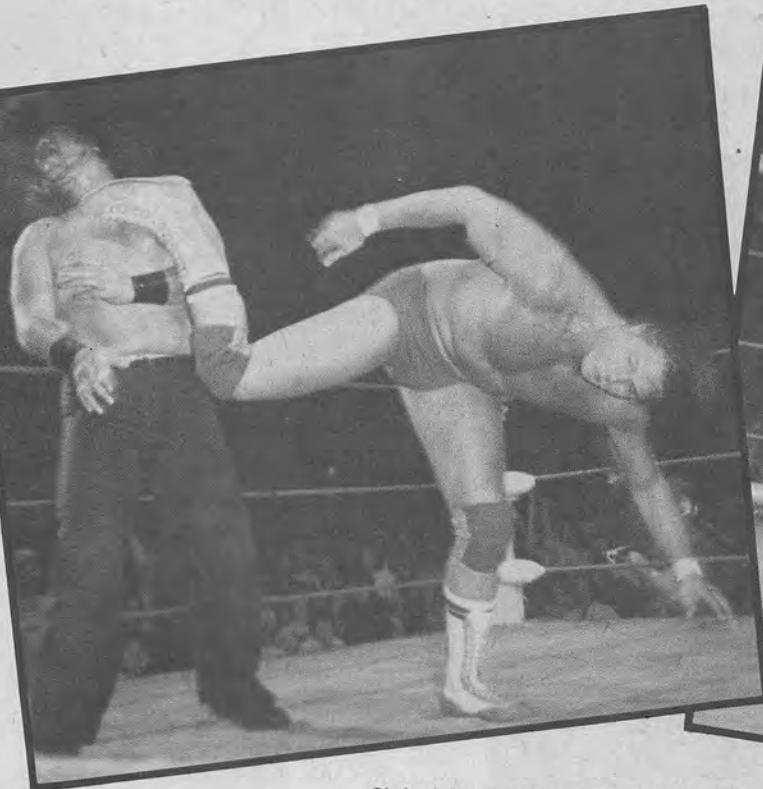
Both wrestlers were at one time managed by Gary Hart. Now, both are enemies of Hart. Kabuki has allied himself with Sunshine, who has pledged to clean up professional wrestling by running out of the sport any rulebreaker who crosses her path. Adams has allied himself with nobody,

NOT JUST FOR KICKS

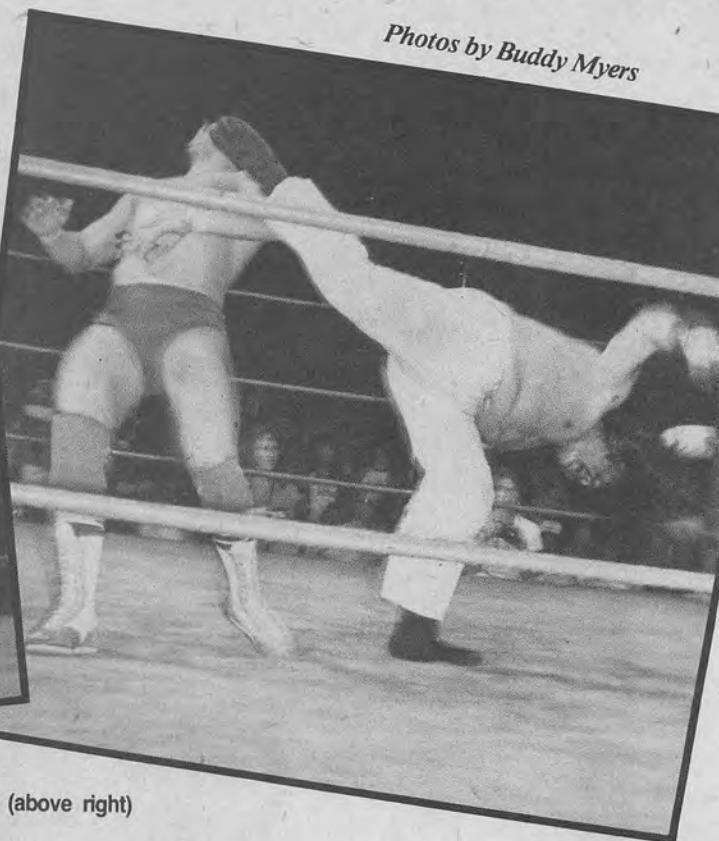
preferring instead to attempt to go it alone in a sport where true friends are few. Adams' feud with the Von Erichs reached epic proportions in 1985.

With both men wrestling in the World Class area, it seemed inevitable that the two would square off in one-on-one competition. And when the day came, the match was billed as a "kick vs. kick" test. To Adams and Kabuki, it was a match for bragging rights; for others, it meant a great deal more.

Gary Hart stood in a doorway that leads to the dressing room area of the Tarrant County Convention Center in Ft. Worth, Texas. It was July 4, and the fireworks that Hart is watching are

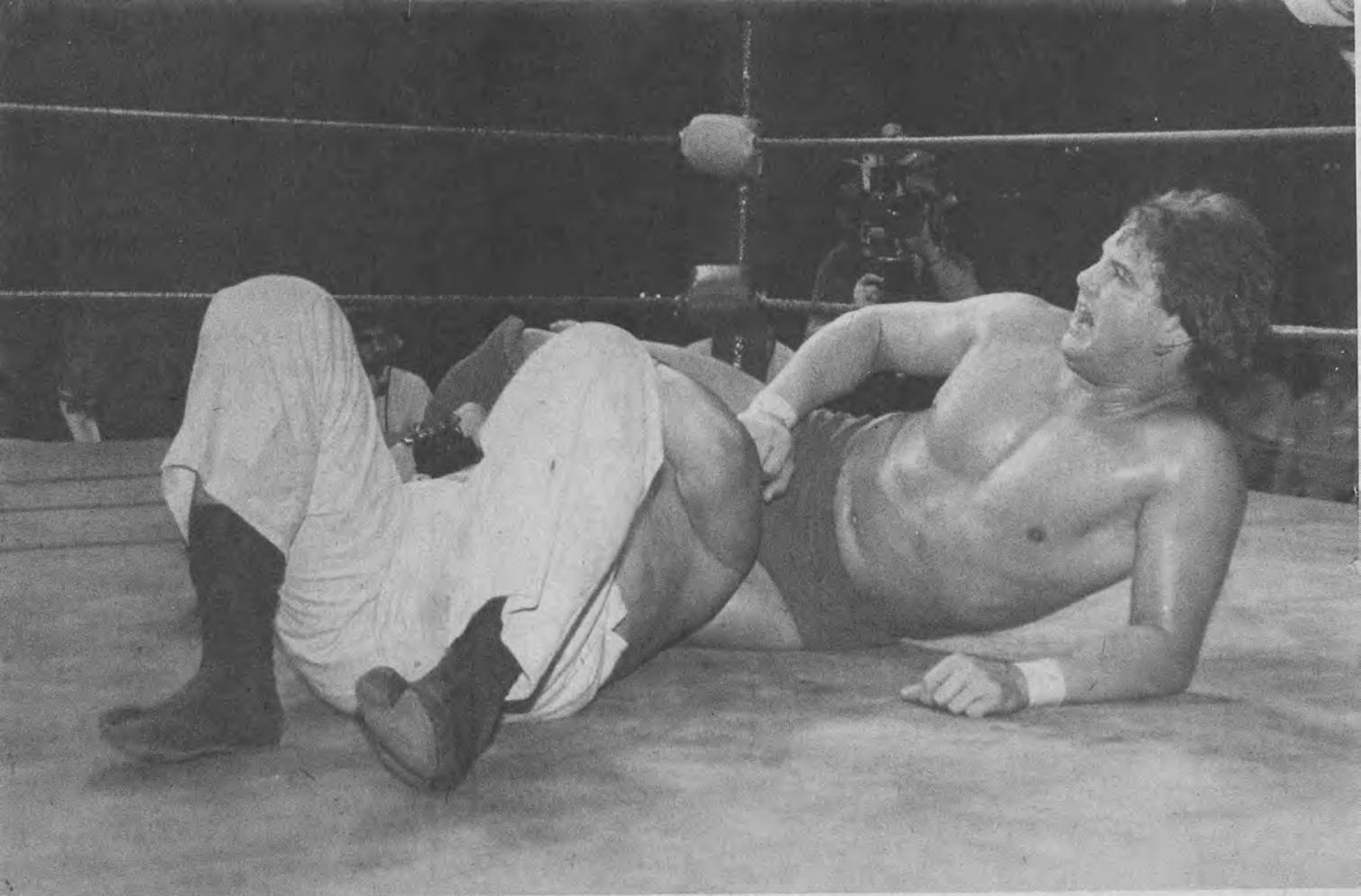


Chris Adams (above left) and Kabuki (above right) exchange stunning karate kicks.



Photos by Buddy Myers

Which is more powerful and effective: Kabuki's karate thrust or Chris Adams' superkick? There had to be a match to find out. But the Kabuki-Adams war was more than a contest of kicks—much more!



Adams holds a large edge over Kabuki in the categories of strength and wrestling ability. Neither factor comes into play much in these vicious wars. For the few moments the action is inside the ring, Adams dominates (above). Soon, the action heats up at ringside (left).

taking place not in the sky, but in the wrestling ring.

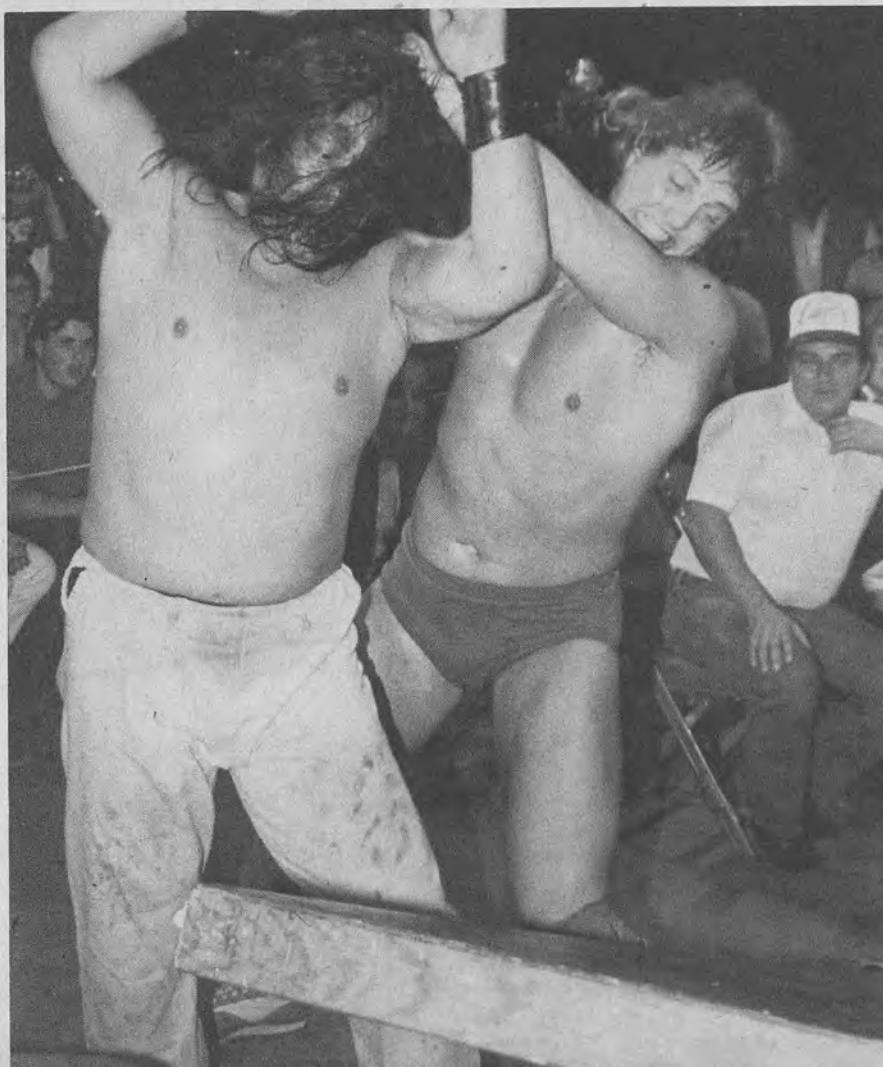
Well, not always in the ring: Adams had just sent Kabuki through the ropes, and the 252-pounder crushed a table as he fell. Adams scrambled through the ropes, positioned himself above Kabuki, and proceeded to pummel his opponent in the face.

"I hope they both kill each other," Hart mumbled under his breath.

A reporter standing nearby, also watching the violent match, chirped up. "What's that, Gary?"

Hart's scream ripped through the air like a violent gust of wind: "I said I hope the damn both of them kill each other! Does that satisfy your curiosity, you stinking parasite? They're both a couple of back-stabbing scum who deserve what they get."

Hart's frustration, however, seemed obvious: These two men were, at the



moment, the center of attention in the World Class area—two men that, at one time, Gary Hart controlled. Hart's frustration grew out of an agonizing loss of control.

The reporter wisely declined to ask any more questions.

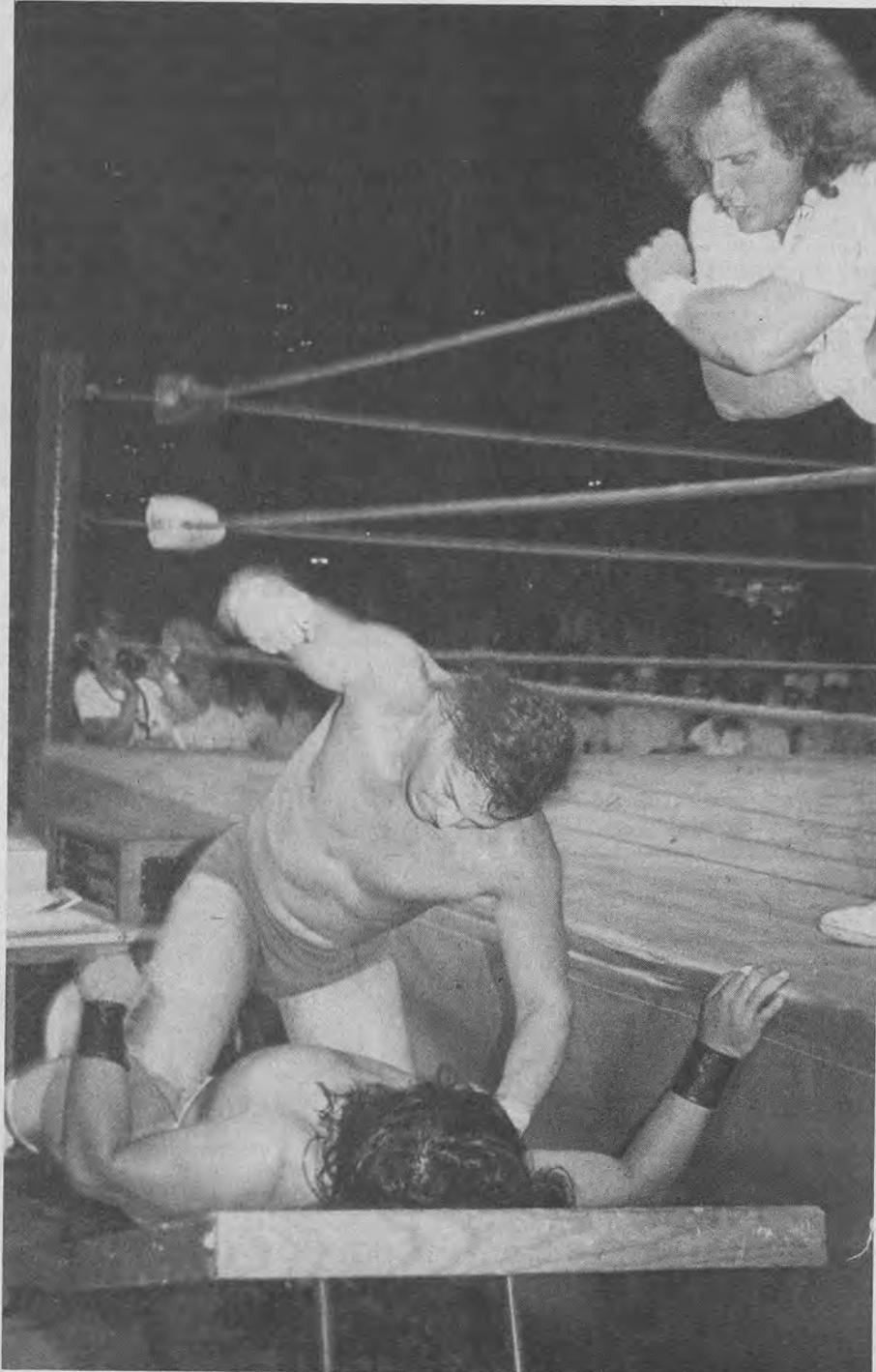
Sunshine, clad in a beautiful silk kimono, accompanied Kabuki to the ring for his match with Chris Adams. She was, of course, hoping that Kabuki

would be able to not only withstand Adams' superkick, but to take the match one step further and best Adams with his karate thrust. Indeed, during an unusual prematch interview, Sunshine had expressed hopes that this would be *the* match to eliminate Adams from World Class area contention.

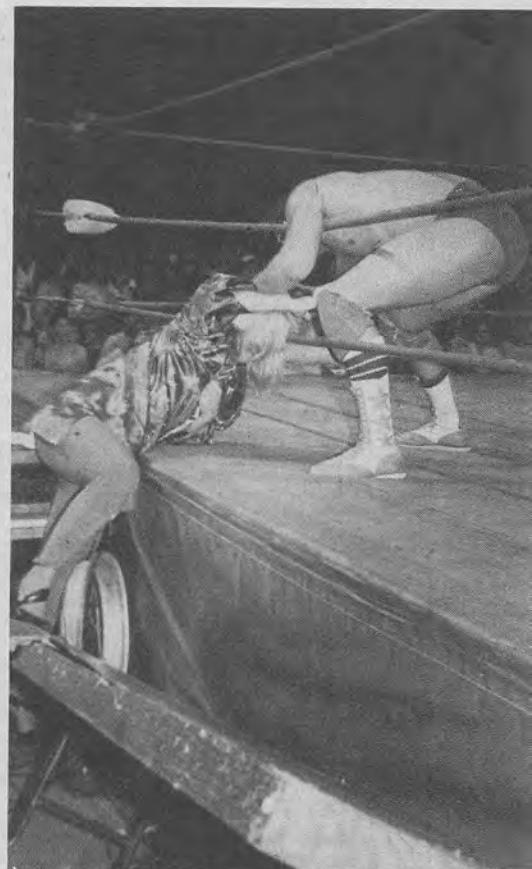
"This is as good a time as any to take a major step forward in my plan to clean up wrestling," Sunshine said.

"Chris Adams is weakened considerably by his feud with the Von Erichs, and he's very worried about his American title match with Iceman Parsons tomorrow night. Kabuki will be hitting Adams with everything he's got. One misstep by Adams could very well cost him his career—and I hope it does."

But Adams would make no missteps this Independence Day, and as the match wore on, the space between Sunshine's eyebrows would become a



Referee Rick Hazzard, who has lost control of the battle, signals for the timekeeper to ring the bell and rules a double-disqualification (above). Adams attacks his former valet, Sunshine, who, luckily, was saved by Kabuki before she was badly hurt (top right).



tightly knitted muscle mass of tension and frustration.

Most frightening for Sunshine, though, was the swift transition from frustration to fear as Adams attacked his former valet at the end of the match. Sunshine required assistance from Kabuki, who karate-thrusted Adams in the head, allowing Sunshine to escape to the safety of her dressing room.

Gino Hernandez paced nervously in his dressing room in the Will Rogers Coliseum in Ft. Worth, Texas. It was July 8, and once again Adams and Kabuki are going at it in a kick vs.

(Continued on page 62)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
2—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
3—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec

4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
7—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI

8—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
9—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
10—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
11—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

12—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
13—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
14—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
15—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

NWA

1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
5—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX
6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
7—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX

8—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
9—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
10—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
11—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA

12—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
13—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
14—**CARLOS COLON**
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
15—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford, England

AWA

1—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
2—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
3—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA

4—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
6—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
7—**BUCK ZUMHOFER**
222, Hamburg, MN

8—**JERRY BLACKWELL**
474, Stone Mountain, GA
9—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
10—**RAY STEVENS**
243, San Francisco, CA
11—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda

12—**THE TONGA KID**
226, Tonga
13—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
248, Appleton, MN
14—**BILLY ROBINSON**
246, Manchester, England
15—**BARON VON RASCHKE**
271, Germany

WWF

1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
2—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
3—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI

4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
5—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
6—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA
7—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL

8—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
9—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
10—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
11—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
268, parts unknown

12—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
13—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
14—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**
245, Kansas City, KS
15—**GEORGE STEELE**
298, Detroit, MI

MOST POPULAR

1—**HULK HOGAN**
305, Venice Beach, CA
2—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
5—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC

8—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
9—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
10—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
11—**BARRY WINDHAM**
230, Sweetwater, TX

12—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
13—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
14—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
15—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX

MOST HATED

1—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
3—**CHRIS ADAMS**
225, Stratford, England

4—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
5—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
7—**GREG VALENTINE**
243, Seattle, WA

8—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
9—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX
10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
11—**OLE ANDERSON**
256, Minneapolis, MN

12—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
295, Tulsa, OK
13—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
14—**KILLER BROOKS**
235, Lancaster, TX
15—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN

TAG TEAMS

1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
AWA World tag team champions
2—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
NWA World tag team champions
3—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**
WWF World tag team champions
4—**TED DIBIASE & STEVE WILLIAMS**
Mid-South tag team champions
5—**CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ**
World Class tag team champions

6—**OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
National tag team champions
7—**THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
8—**WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES**
U.S. tag team champions
9—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF & IRON SHEIK**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
10—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title

11—**JONATHAN BOYD & RIP MORGAN**
Mid-Southern tag team champions
12—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**
No. 1 contenders to Mid-Southern tag team title
13—**DYNAMITE KID & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
14—**CHAVO & HECTOR GUERRERO**
No. 1 contenders to Mid-South tag team title
15—**DUSTY RHODES & MAGNUM T.A.**
No. 1 contenders to National tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place . . . Though several Canadian and Japanese championships are listed in the "Roll Call," the ratings themselves reflect United States-based competition. For period ended July 30, 1985

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Mike Miller)

ALABAMA CHAMPION: RON FULLER

(June 17, 1985; from Lord Humongous; Birmingham, AL)

* ALL-ASIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ISAMU TERANISHI & ANIMAL HAMAGUCHI

(July 18, 1985; from Akio Sato & Takashi Ishikawa; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE REGAL

(March 25, 1984; from Mike Graham; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: RICK MARTEL

(May 13, 1984; from Jumbo Tsuruta; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

(August 25, 1984; from Crusher & Baron Von Raschke; Las Vegas)

AMERICAS CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER

(June 21, 1985; from Larry Zbyszko; Chicago, IL)

CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: DINO BRAVO

(May 28, 1985; defeated King Tonga to fill vacant title; Montreal)

CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU

(June 12, 1985; defeated King Tonga & Dick Charland to fill vacant title; Quebec City)

CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: MR. POGO

(January 10, 1985; from Harley Race; Kansas City, KS)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BOB BROWN & MARTY JANNETTY

(December 9, 1984; from Mr. Pogo & Gypsy Joe; Kansas City, KS)

CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: GARY ROYAL

(March 7, 1985; from Marty Jannetty; Kansas City, KS)

* FLORIDA CHAMPION: JACK HART

(July 23, 1985; tournament final over Mike Graham; Tampa, FL)

IWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MISTY BLUE SIMMES

(March 30, 1985; from Nickie Ryan; Malden, MA)

MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: BUZZ TYLER

(March 16, 1985; from Ron Bass; Greensboro, NC)

MID-SOUTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TED DIBIASE & STEVE WILLIAMS

(May 3, 1985; from Rick Morton & Robert Gibson; Houston, TX)

* MID-SOUTH TV CHAMPION: BUTCH REED

(July 22, 1985; from Dutch Mantel; Shreveport, LA)

* MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(July 29, 1985; from Bota; Memphis, TN)

* MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: PHIL HICKERSON

(July 22, 1985; from Terry Taylor; Memphis, TN)

MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JONATHAN BOYD & RIP MORGAN

(June 22, 1985; from Steve Keim & Stan Lane; Memphis, TN)

MISSOURI CHAMPION: JERRY BLACKWELL

(November 16, 1984; from Harley Race; St. Louis)

NATIONAL CHAMPION: BLACK BART

(June 8, 1985; from Ronnie Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

NATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: OLE & ARN ANDERSON

(May 28, 1985; from T-Bolt Patterson & Manny Fernandez; Charlotte, NC)

NWA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(August 31, 1983; from Bruiser Brody; Tokyo, Japan)

NWA INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

KUNIYAKI KOBAYASHI

(June 12, 1985; from Dynamite Kid; Tokyo, Japan)

NWA INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & TENRYU

(September 3, 1984; from Bruiser Brody & Crusher Blackwell; Japan)

NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN

(November 22, 1984; from Mike Davis; Greensboro, NC)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV

(December 1984; first team to claim NWA six-man title)

* NWA TV CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES

(July 6, 1985; from Tully Blanchard; Charlotte, NC)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 24, 1984; from Kerry Von Erich; Yokosuka City, Japan)

* NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON

(July 9, 1985; from Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev; Shelby, NC)

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: THE NIGHTMARE

(May 22, 1985; from Terry Taylor; Shreveport, LA)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Mike Miller)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

KARL STEINER & MIKE MILLER

(June 1, 1985; tournament final over Bobby Jaggers & Ricky Vaughan; Portland, OR)

PWF CHAMPION: SHOHEI BABA

(July 31, 1984; from Stan Hansen; Japan)

PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Stan Hansen & Bruiser Brody)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: BAD NEWS ALLEN

(May 22, 1985; from Lars Anderson; Honolulu)

POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ROCKY & RICKY JOHNSON

(December 19, 1984; from Superfly Tui & Super Samoan Sakalia; Honolulu)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: JIMMY GOLDEN

(March 30, 1985; from Porkchop Cash; Dothan, AL)

* SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE FLAME

(July 9, 1985; from Bob Armstrong; Mobile, AL)

SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NIGHTMARES

(March 23, 1985; from Johnny Rich & Steve Armstrong; Dothan, AL)

* SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

SCOTT ARMSTRONG

(July 5, 1985; from Bill Ash; Montgomery, AL)

* SOUTHERN CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(July 21, 1985; tournament final over Mike Graham; Orlando, FL)

TEXAS ALL-STAR CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Kevin Sullivan)

TEXAS ALL-STAR JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Paul Kelly)

* TEXAS ALL-STAR TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

CHAVO GUERRERO & AL MADRIL

(July 5, 1985; from Nick Kiniski & Paul Diamond; San Antonio, TX)

* U.S. CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD

(July 21, 1985; from Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)

* U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BILLY JACK HAYNES & WAHOO McDANIEL

(July 9, 1985; from Rick Rude & Jesse Barr; Tampa, FL)

* WORLD CLASS AMERICAN CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS

(July 5, 1985; from Chris Adams; Dallas)

* WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS:

KILLER BROOKS, MARK LEWIN & ONE MAN GANG

(July 7, 1985; from Kerry, Kevin and Mike Von Erich; Reno, NV)

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ

(June 24, 1985; from Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Ft. Worth, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS

(July 15, 1985; from Killer Brooks; Ft. Worth, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BRIAN ADIDAS

(July 29, 1985; from Gino Hernandez; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(March 31, 1985; from Lelani Kai; New York)

WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DESIRÉE PETERSEN & VELVET McINTYRE

(May 1983; from Joyce Grable & Wendi Richter; Calgary, Alberta)

WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III

(January 5, 1985; from Pedro Arguello; Mexico City)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: HERCULES AYALA

(March 10, 1985; from Randy Savage; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BUTCH MILLER & LUKE WILLIAMS

(January 3, 1985; from The Invaders; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC

(July 16, 1985; from Fidel Sierra; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUTCH MILLER & LUKE WILLIAMS

(June 21, 1985; from Invader III & The Medic; Manati, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(June 15, 1985; from Dory Funk Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TITO SANTANA

(July 6, 1985; from Greg Valentine; Baltimore, MD)

WWF INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TATSUJI FUJINAMI

(August 4, 1983; from Gino Brito; New York)

WWF INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TATSUJI FUJINAMI & KENGO KIMURA

(May 24, 1985; tournament final over Adrián Adonis & Dick Murdoch; Kobe City, Japan)

WWF JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO SAITO

(May 20, 1985; from The Cobra; Hiroshima, Japan)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO

(June 17, 1985; from Nikolai Volkoff & Iron Sheik; Poughkeepsie, NY)

After The Battle
of The Champions:

MAGNUM T.A.'S POST-FLAIR DESPAIR



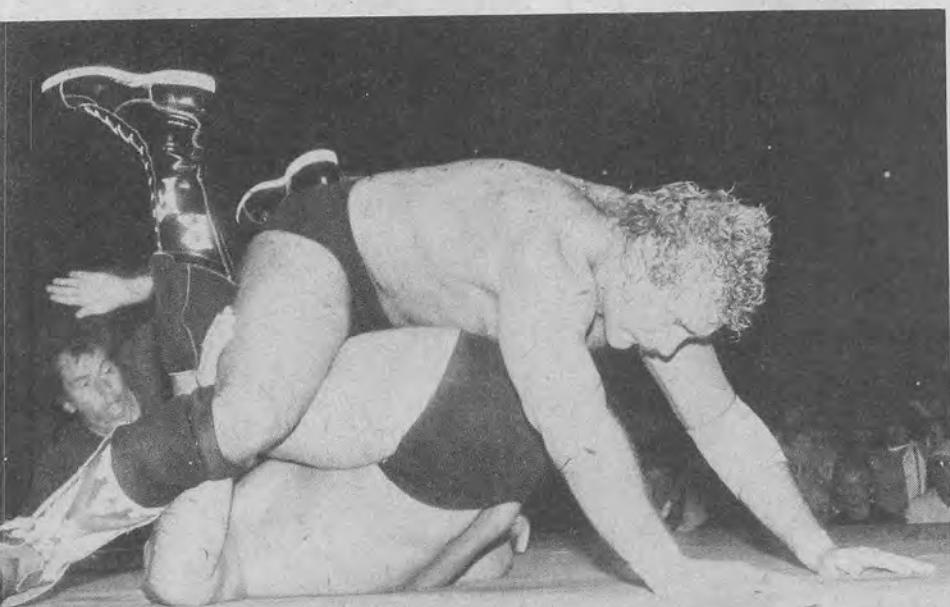
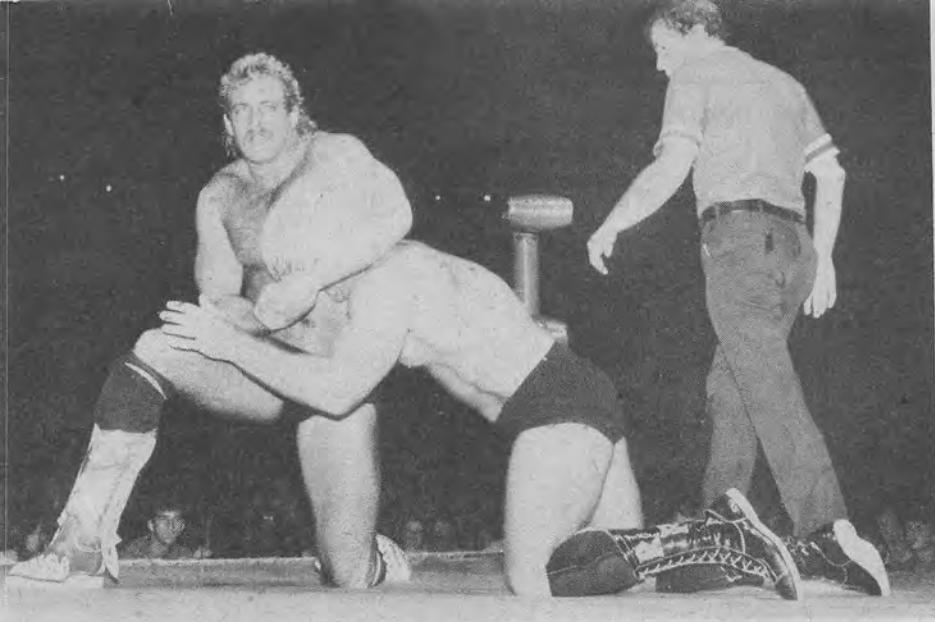
HERE'S A SCENE that is common to almost every Warner Brothers cartoon featuring Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote.

Coyote has just assembled another Rube Goldberg-style device to catch Road Runner. He's hiding behind a rock, waiting for Road Runner to pass by, anticipating that when he does, the device (rocket-powered roller skates, for example, or maybe a giant slingshot or a bicycle with a jet engine attached) will be switched on and he'll catch his prey.

Of course the device fails to operate properly, and seconds later Wile E. Coyote finds himself hurtling over a cliff.

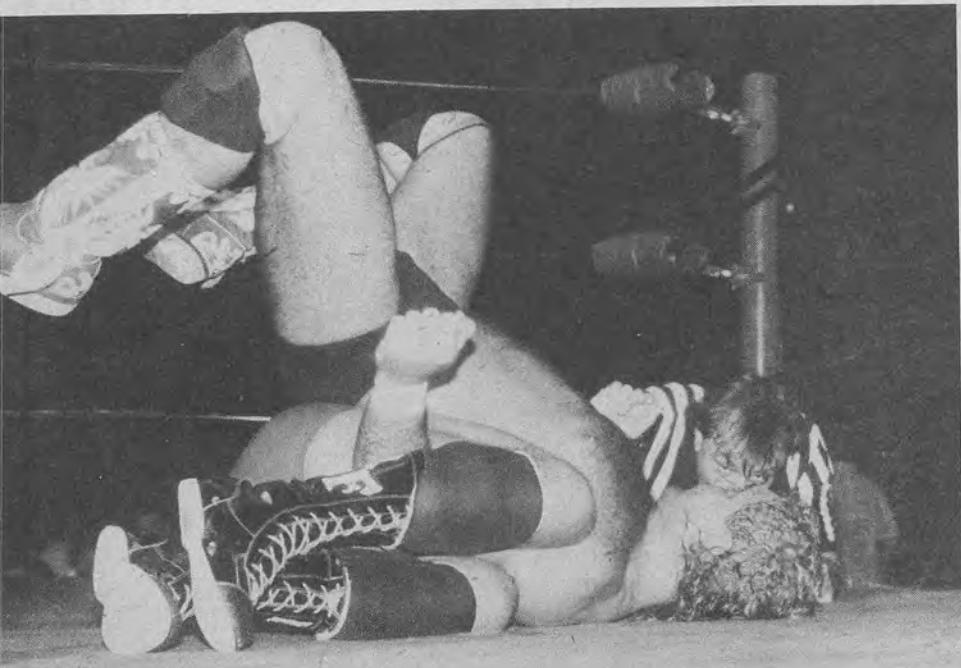
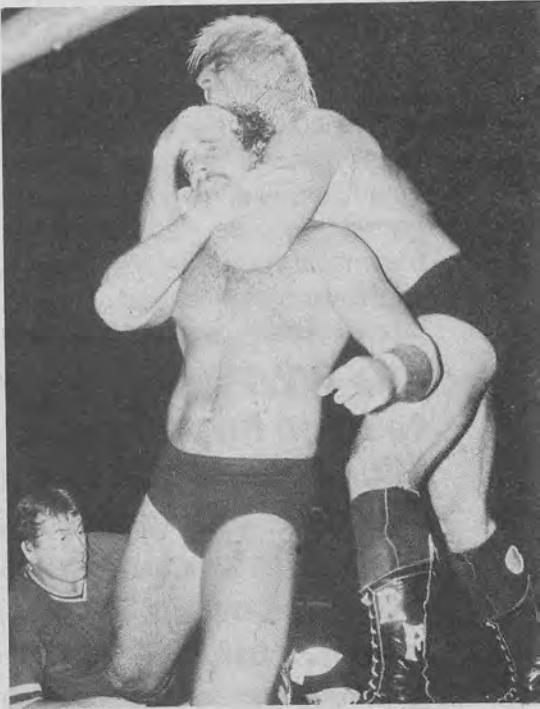
And this is the common scene: A frantic Coyote, his plans just gone awry, legs flailing wildly in midair, scrambling to regain a footing that is impossible to obtain. After a few seconds of frantic hopelessness, Coyote resigns himself to his fate—he gives up the futile scramble for safety, relaxes his body, and allows himself to fall a few thousand feet to the desert canyon floor below. A soft "thud" and a puff of dust serve as final

Left: Magnum T.A., having failed in an attempt to wrestle the NWA World title from Ric Flair, at least still has his U.S. title. No longer.



Top: Magnum T.A. contemplates his next move as he holds Flair in a headlock. Above: Flair pushes his challenger off at the two-count. Right: T.A. does not succumb to Flair's sleeperhold, but he would be greatly weakened by it. Below: The NWA champion hooks T.A.'s left arm with his legs while using his arms to hold his right shoulder against the mat.

When Magnum T.A. challenged Ric Flair for his NWA World title, T.A.'s hopes for victory ran very high. Now, after several matches with Flair, those hopes are virtually destroyed—and even the U.S. title doesn't mean as much to Magnum anymore!



punctuation to Coyote's painful fate.

Magnum T.A. hasn't resigned himself to such a fate—yet. But in his campaign to catch NWA World champion Ric Flair, T.A. is just about at the edge of the cliff. And he doesn't like the view.

T.A. spent the greater portion of the summer of '85 working on his challenge to Ric Flair's 10 pounds of gold. And as hundreds—if not thousands—of fans and professional observers of the sport recognized, T.A. came closer to unseating Flair than anyone since Kerry

(Continued on page 56)

Photos by David Fitzgerald

WHEN THE NEWS reached Rick Steamboat that Tito Santana had recaptured the WWF Intercontinental title from Greg Valentine, Steamboat mouthed the plaudits that one would expect from a close friend when another friend meets with great success. "What a story. Way to go, Tito, way to go my man," Steamboat exuded. "Coming back from that knee injury like he did is just phenomenal. I don't care what he says—there is no way his knee is back to 100 percent. I'm very happy for Tito. Very happy."

Although his words were laudatory, the furrowed brow that rearranged his comely face spoke differently. Inside, a piece of Ricky Steamboat was glowing with frustration, because, as happy as Steamboat was for his friend—and his tribute had been sincere,

The WWF is morally obligated to bend its policy and allow Rick Steamboat and Tito Santana to wrestle each other for the Intercontinental championship. If this match doesn't take place, there is a strong possibility that the WWF will be saying goodbye to a great Hawaiian star

his happiness certainly genuine—he knew that as long as Santana wore that belt he would be denied a title shot. And for a Rick Steamboat whose return to full-time wrestling was predicated on the capture of the Intercontinental title, such news could not be expected to warm the heart.

The story of Rick Steamboat is one of immense talent and poor planning. A man of towering strength, feline quickness, and scientific mastery, Steamboat



STEAMBOAT VS. SANTANA: MAKE THIS MATCH —NOW!—

burst upon the sport 9½ years ago, wrestling in the Mid-Atlantic and other NWA territories, and in no time at all established a reputation for fast victories. Quick to smile, Steamboat also established himself as one of the sport's most popular wrestlers, and promoters from throughout the country trampled each other like housewives

at a white sale to get his name on a contract.

Steamboat had other ideas. It had always been his dream to own and operate a gym bearing his name, and in 1982 Rick Steamboat's Mid-Atlantic Gym opened for business in Charlotte, North Carolina. Rick Steamboat the entrepreneur's stock skyrock-

eted at precisely the same time as Rick Steamboat the wrestler's worth deflated.

His friends, most notably Dusty Rhodes, Wahoo McDaniel and Jay Youngblood, all asked the same question: *Which will it be Ricky, wrestling or business?* It was a question that Steamboat refused to answer or even face, and he continued to split his time between his gym and the ring. The results were predictable. Though his gym thrived, his ring skills became dusty and unpolished. The stylish Steamboat seemed sloppy, his execution obviously off-balance.

The ex-holder of the U.S. title, the Mid-Atlantic title, the NWA World tag team title, and a perennial contender for the NWA World heavyweight title, Steamboat now had problems in matches he should have won easily. His won-lost record was not the only thing that suffered. The concern of men like Rhodes and Youngblood had more to do with injuries. "Don't worry about Ricky's ability," Rhodes said at the time. "If he'd concentrate, he'd be back on top in no time. This part-time wres-

(Continued on page 58)



Rick Steamboat takes Magnificent Muraco to the mat with a perfectly executed armdrag. Ironically, Steamboat might have to count on Muraco to defeat Tito Santana before he can get a shot at the Intercontinental championship.

HOTSEAT

JIM CORNETTE:

"WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS?"

THREE ARE TWO types of managers in professional wrestling. Type one builds a large stable and attempts to guide those men to various titles, splitting his time more or less equally among three, four, or sometimes even five or six competitors. Number among these managers individuals like Capt. Lou Albano, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, and Percy Pringle.

Type two chooses a single wrestler or a single tag team, and devotes 100 percent of his time, energy, and ability toward making that one man or team as successful as they can possibly be. It's a technique that has worked quite well for Paul Ellering and The Road Warriors.

For the last few years, Jim Cornette has been a "type two" manager, devoting all his time to The Midnight Express, Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton.

The young manager has guided Condrey and Eaton to the Mid-South, Mid-Southern, and World Class tag team titles. Now in the World Championship area, Cornette is looking to guide the Express to the NWA World tag team title, currently held by The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

Associate Editor Craig Peters spoke

with Cornette about himself, Condrey and Eaton, and their plans for the immediate future.

Q: As we're speaking, Jim, it's been about a week since The Rock 'n' Roll Express captured the NWA World tag team title from Krusher

“

There won't be a feud, because the first time Dennis and Bobby step into the ring with Morton and Gibson, it's going to be total destruction, and The Midnight Express will be the NWA World tag team champions.

”

Khrushchev and Ivan Koloff. A feud between Rick Morton and Robert Gibson and your Midnight Express is virtually inevitable. How would you comment on that?

A: I would comment on that the same way I would comment on anything else you're going to be asking me here, Craig Peters, and that would be with intelligence, with wit, and

with a wisdom and foresight that obviously you don't possess. Now, with that out of the way, allow me to address your question with the expression of two words: "Loverboy" and "Beautiful," and you know as well as I do that I'm talking about the two men that are the human highlight film of professional wrestling, Loverboy Dennis Condrey, and Beautiful Bobby Eaton, The Midnight Express. Now, as to your question about a possible feud between these two teams, I would say that no, there will not be a feud. Aren't you going to ask me why not?

Q: Why not?

A: I'm glad you asked me that. There won't be a feud, because the first time Dennis and Bobby step into the ring with Morton and Gibson, it's going to be like old home week when Godzilla was reunited with Tokyo. Total destruction, and The Midnight Express will be the NWA World tag team champions.

Q: The Midnight Express have locked horns with the Rock 'n' Rolls before, and I . . .

A: Locked horns? No, we haven't locked horns. We've obliterated them, we've embarrassed them,





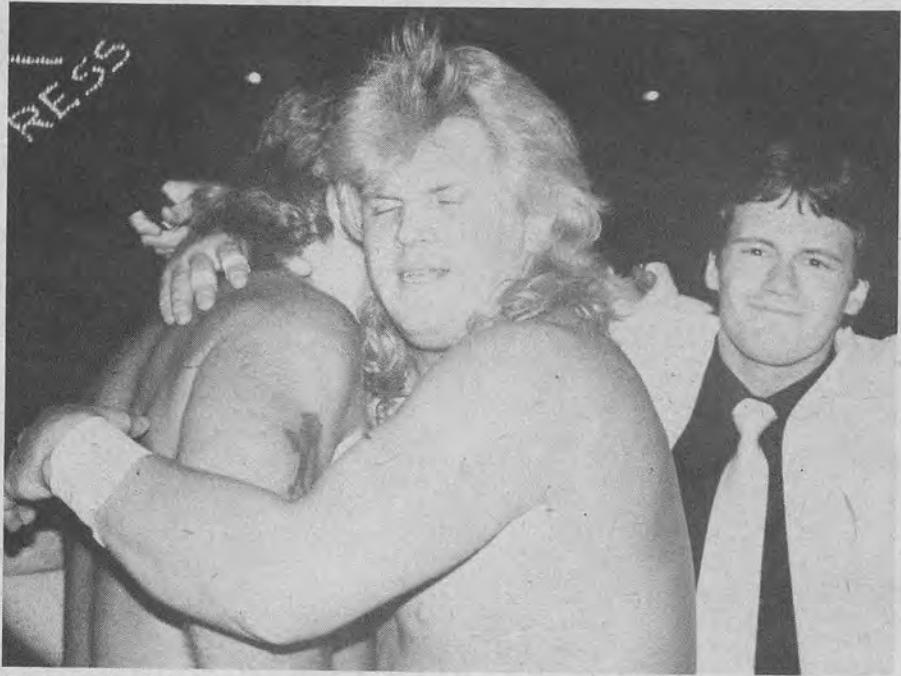
“
Mother provided me with the initial investment. It was a matter of applying my own unique strategic genius to make The Midnight Express the most feared team in the sport today.
”

we've shown them up to be the product of pure hype and fan stupidity that they are. Frankly, it astonishes me that they were able to win the World tag team belts from Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev. I'll bet the Russians were suffering from a bad case of mononucleosis that night. That's the only explanation I can come up with. They were too weak from sickness to do what had to be done to Morton and Gibson. As far as Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby are concerned, however, winning the belts from Morton and Gibson will be like taking candy from the proverbial baby.

Q: There is one thing I'd like to ask you, Jim . . .

A: One thing? Just one? You've already asked me *three* questions. You call yourself an interviewer? Go ahead, ask away.

Q: What is the story behind your rela-



Manager Jim Cornette beams as his tag team, The Midnight Express, hug after a victory (above). Cornette howls at the fans (below), who, no matter where he has managed, have been unanimous in their contempt for the pompous manager.





tionship with your mother? What I mean to say is . . .

A: What is the story? Tell me, Craig Peters, what's the story behind your relationship with your remedial thinking instructor? What are you trying to imply?

Q: I'm not trying to imply anything, but you seem to refer to your mother often in interviews, and from what I understand she is the one who provides you with all your money.

A: First of all, no, you're wrong, she doesn't provide me with *all* of my money. What she *did* do was provide me with the initial investment necessary to obtain the expensive contracts of Loverboy Dennis and Beautiful Bobby, and from there it was a matter of applying my own unique strategic genius and leading the Express to a series of tag team victories that have made them *the* most feared team in the sport today.

Q: Just how expensive were those contracts?

A: Just how many pairs of those

The Southern tag team championship is just one of the many regional titles Cornette's Midnight Express have held. Now Cornette has his sights on the NWA World tag team title.

pants did you get for your five dollars? All I have to tell you is—well, I don't *have* to tell you anything, actually, but I *will* tell you that simply obtaining their contracts, over and above any monthly compensation, was well into the six figures for each man.

Q: That's quite a piece of change.

A: You don't know *how* big a piece of change that is. *Hahaha.* Yes indeed, who says you can't buy happiness? I've bought happiness in the tag team that has no peer, the combination that is more suited to each other than Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon.

Q: The Midnight Express.

A: Precisely.

Q: And you really are happy, aren't you?

A: Wouldn't you be happy if you were the premier manager in the sport of professional wrestling?



“
Your best is thoroughly inferior to the worst that The Midnight Express can possibly be. Because our worst is better than anyone's best. And at our best—watch out!

”

Q: I'm not sure.

A: You're not sure of which shoe to put on which foot in the morning, are you? All I know is that when the chips finally fall and settle to the ground, it's going to be yours truly who controls the NWA World tag team title.

Q: Have you ever considered managing anyone else besides Condrey and Eaton?

A: And have you ever considered going into another line of work? These are the most ridiculous questions I've ever had the misfortune of being asked. You're like everyone else in the wrestling world: Your best is thoroughly inferior to the worst that The Midnight Express or myself can possibly be. Because our worst is better than anyone's best. And at our best—watch out! And we're *always* at our best. And *that's* why we're destined to control the NWA. □

The Freebirds Flyin' High:

"WE WANT THE ROAD WARRIORS!"

It's a natural three-on-three battle: Fabulous Freebirds Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts vs. Road Warriors Hawk and Animal with Precious Paul Ellering. But before the match can happen, Ellering says, the 'Birds have to prove themselves worthy



THERE'S A PHRASE that seems to have become almost as identifiable with The Road Warriors as the unusual and ever-changing facial makeup that Hawk and Animal wear to the ring:

"We don't care!"

As in this quote from Animal: "We don't care how much damage

what does that mean for today? Absolutely nothing.

"The point is that we don't care about yesterday's reputations, we want to know about today's teams. We need competition. And frankly, we're quite discerning regarding the teams we choose to dismantle, so if The Freebirds would like to number themselves among the



If the Freebirds—Terry Gordy, Michael Hayes, and Buddy Roberts (opposite page)—have their way, they will soon be squaring off against The Road Warriors—Animal and Hawk—managed by Precious Paul Ellering.

we do to our opponents; we're here to break a few bones!"

Or this one from Hawk: "We don't care what people say about us; we're the greatest tag team in wrestling. Period."

But when Precious Paul Ellering, manager of the AWA World tag team champions, uttered those three words recently, they had a special significance for The Fabulous Freebirds.

"We don't care what kind of a reputation Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts have," Ellering told *Inside Wrestling*. "Look, there was a time when Genintech was the hottest stock on the market. Great reputation, but

privileged few, they're going to have to establish a reputation for themselves on the AWA scene first.

"And frankly," Ellering added with a wry smile curling his lip, "the AWA scene is pretty bleak these days, with the exception of the Legion of Doom. If the 'Birds can't establish themselves—well, that's all the more reason that we don't want to be bothered with that kind of trash."

Michael Hayes is the acknowledged leader of The Fabulous Freebirds. He's a man who isn't impressed with any wrestler until he's had the

(Continued on page 64)

Photos by Chaz Fenn



Gordy, who many experts feel is one of the few men who can match The Road Warriors' strength, takes Greg Gagne to the canvas (above) and staggers Greg with a kneelift (below).



The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

WHEN THE COMBINATION of Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams captured the Mid-South tag team title from Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, it upset the entire balance of power in the Mid-South area. But DiBiase and Williams could hardly have imagined precisely how much their victory would stir up events in that area.

Shortly after that title match, the contracts began rolling in. Tag teams from throughout the country were lining up to challenge DiBiase and Williams. One team in particular seemed a bit out of place: Jaké "The Snake" Roberts and The Barbarian.

Willing to take on all comers, DiBiase and Williams accepted the challenge of Roberts and The Barbarian, and a brutal and violent feud between two of the most vicious rulebreaking teams in the sport was born.

A second feud quickly grew out of the first: Jake Roberts vs. Ted DiBiase. The eye of this particular hurricane concerns their respective finishing maneuvers. Indeed, this feud is truly a situation pitting Roberts' DDT against DiBiase's spinning toehold. And if fans are taking any sides, it seems to be with Roberts.

Inside Wrestling brought these two unlikely combatants together to discuss their tag team and singles feuds . . . "One on One."

ONE O



"Your spinning toehold is an inferior maneuver. Certainly it's no match for the DDT, now is it?"

—Jake Roberts

JAKE ROBERTS:

So, Teddy boy, heh, heh, how does it feel? You know what I mean? Sure. Of course you do. You know what I mean. What I mean is that you and Steve Williams are finally defending the tag team belts against a *real* tag team, not a pair of fan-pandering wimps like Morton and Gibson. This is the real thing, Ted. The big time.

TED DiBIASE:

When you mention a real tag team, surely you don't mean yourself and your friend Ugly the Barbarian. I swear Jake, no offense, but every time I look at that guy I start to laugh. He's so damn ugly. And he can't wrestle

worth a damn.

JR: But he doesn't *have* to wrestle, Ted, and he's not looking to make the cover of *GQ* magazine. He's raw power incarnate, my friend, and he's taken *you* off your feet more than a few times, hasn't he?

TD: Yeah, every time I look at his face it takes me right off my feet. Come to think of it, you don't have much of a mug yourself, Jake. Maybe you two could give ugly lessons part-time. It'd probably pay more than you make in all those preliminary matches that you guys have to wrestle in.

JR: Do you consider our matches against you and Steve Williams preliminary? My, my, Ted, you

W **ONE**



"My spinning toehold is so complicated that I won't even bother discussing it with a mentality as primitive as yours."

—Ted DiBiase

certainly don't think very highly of yourself, do you? That's too bad. That's probably why your spinning toehold is such an inferior or finishing maneuver. Certainly it's no match for the DDT, now, is it?

TD: Y'mean your move where you grab some guy's head, slap him on the back, fall to the mat, and then the guy gets up and knocks you topside your head? That DDT? Yeah, bud, that's a helluva move. My spinning toehold is so complicated that I won't even bother discussing it with a mentality as primitive as yours.

JR: Don't you *wish* you could come up from the DDT and knock me

upside my head? You have *yet* to feel the true power of the DDT, my friend. You see, the DDT is a very versatile maneuver. When I drive my man's head into the mat, I can do it with the minimal force of a slap in the face or the extreme force of a piledriver. It all depends on how much English I put on the move, how much of a little twist I want to give it. If you rate my DDT move on a scale of one to 10, I would say you've only felt about a level four DDT. You want to feel a 10, Ted? I'll oblige you.

TD: A level four DDT? A level 10 DDT? What in the hell are you talking about? Do you think that you're wrestling against manne-

quins? When you practice your moves on that dummy, Barbarian, he's so stupid that he'll let you do whatever you want. But try your DDT on Steve Williams. He'll take your level four and shove it so far down your throat that when you want to say something you'll have to go to the bathroom.

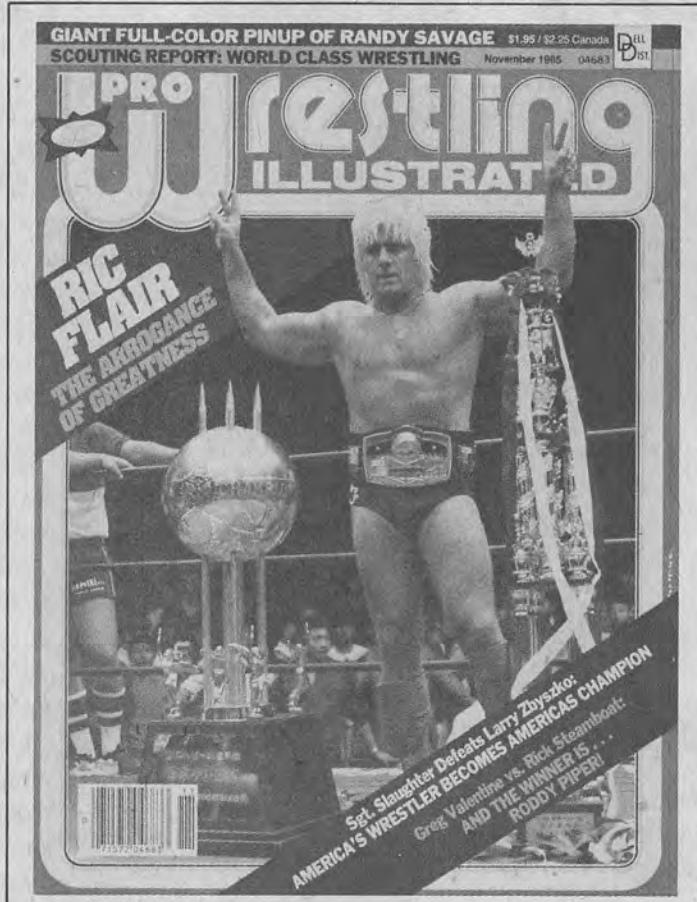
JR: Look, Ted, I don't care too much for your style of talk. Me, I like to let what I do in the ring talk for me. And my DDT talks pretty loud. As for your spinning toehold, which you haven't been able to effectively put on me *yet*, my friend, I'll give you one hint why: Just try and figure out why they call me "The Snake."

TD: Yes, Jake, they would call you "The Snake" because, one: You are a slimy, grotesque, sneaky, eel-like monstrosity, best suited for slinking around on your belly, or two: Your brain is so small and your movements so slow that one could easily step on you and squash you into tiny pieces.

JR: Funny, Ted, very humorous. I'm sure Bill Cosby is trembling in his shoes worrying about you taking away all of his fans. The fact of the matter is, my friend, that I am called "The Snake" for a multiplicity of reasons. Yes. One of those reasons is that I strike as quickly as a poisonous viper. Another reason is that a feeble finishing maneuver like your spinning toehold slips off me like water on a snakeskin. A third reason—no, I'll save that third reason to demonstrate on you in our next match.

TD: There will be no next match. Mr. Williams and I have better things to do than wrestle slobbs like you. If you would like a title you will have to look elsewhere. Our reputations have been made by defeating the best wrestlers in history. Wrestling you again can only tarnish it. We are through. Take your level threes and fours and go to hell. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)



Hulk Hogan has developed a unique relationship with wrestling fans worldwide. *Inside Wrestling* now regards the Hulkster as a world champion.

cause you know that he could beat the pants off Ric Flair or Rick Martel? Or could it possibly be that, in the back of your minds, you know that the WWF really is the best, but don't want to admit it?

Note that I have nothing against the NWA or the AWA, although they are particularly boring. However, until the attitudes of your publication's staff toward the WWF change, 30 or so friends and I will simply refuse to buy your magazine.

JOE OLIVERI
Hawthorne, NJ

[Editor's note: To clarify matters, our magazines first stopped regarding the WWF title as a world title during the reign of Bob Backlund, not Hulk Hogan. Popular fan opinion, however, has led us to reverse our position and once again regard the WWF heavyweight and WWF tag team titles as world titles.]

... AND CON

I think there's a simple solution for everyone who complains about the WWF.

Don't write letters to Vince McMahon asking him to put a stop to the horrible showbiz-wrestling connection. If McMahon cared about what the fans felt, he never would have allowed

(Continued on page 50)

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The Wrestler



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THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS defeat **KOLOFF & KHRUSHCHEV** for the NWA world tag team title!

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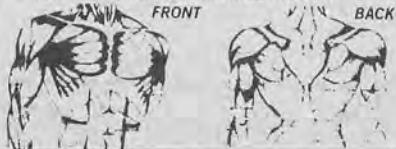
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 47)

the WWF to become the circus it has.

Don't go to your local arena and boo Hulk Hogan, the world's most disgraceful champion. As long as you're buying a ticket, McMahon, Hulk, and the rest are getting their money, which is, of course, all they care about.

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Today, I go to Pro Wrestling U.S.A. shows. And drink fruit juice.

PETER LANDURO
New York

A FORMER MAGNUM FAN

An open letter to Magnum T.A.:

Well, Magnum, you finally got what you deserve. You pushed Ric Flair too far. First, you have the audacity to insult the greatest wrestler in history. You go around telling everyone that is stupid enough to listen to you that you were going to beat him and take his

(Continued on page 52)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 50)



Magnum T.A. has not conducted himself with dignity during his recent campaign for Ric Flair's NWA championship, writes Tammy Glover.

title.

Then, when Ric is nice enough to pay out \$1,500 of his own money to buy you a suit to improve your image, what do you do? You take it to the ring and rip the jacket and vest to shreds right in front of him. When Ric went to pick up the shirt so you would not rip that, too, you attack him with a belly-to-belly suplex. Is that any way to treat the World champion?

Then, to top it all off, on national television you come out and offer Ric \$1,000 to wrestle you. You say Ric can't beat you in 10 minutes. Ric takes you up on it, although it wasn't for the money. Ric could spend \$1,000 in five minutes without leaving the comfort of his home. So he goes up to the ring and humiliates you. You get frustrated, I guess, and before five minutes are up you throw him over the top rope, which is an automatic disqualification.

The referee for some strange reason doesn't disqualify you, possibly because you gave him \$1,000, too. Maybe, maybe not. Anyway, you finally luck out and catch Ric by surprise and put a sorry excuse for a figure-four on him. He does not submit. The time limit expires. Ric gets up to leave the ring and you attack him again. Ole and Arn Anderson, Ric's cousins, come to his aid. Then you get yours, Mr. Magnum, exactly what you deserve.

Now you're going around bragging that Ric Flair didn't beat you in 10 minutes. Well, you seem to have forgotten two things: One, you didn't beat him either. Two: Ric should have won that match by DQ.

I used to be a fan of yours. No more.

TAMMY GLOVER
Bluff City, TN

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August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koffoff and Smirnoff. Cover story: Bruno vs. Zbyszko. PLUS: Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan.

May 1982/COLOR POSTER: Ric Flair. Cover story: Wrestling II vs. Spoiler. PLUS: Backlund, McDaniel, Piper.

June 1982/COLOR POSTER: Nick Bockwinkel. Cover story: Adonis & Ventura. PLUS: Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR POSTER: Dino Bravo. Cover story: Steamboat & Rich. PLUS: Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

September 1982/COLOR POSTER: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Piper, Snuka, Von Erich, Martel, AWA Sheiks.

October 1982/COLOR POSTER: Jerry Lawler. Cover story: Ric Flair. PLUS: Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR POSTER: Rick Martel. Cover story: Hulk Hogan. PLUS: Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ken Patera. Cover story: Rick Steamboat. PLUS: Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR POSTER: Ivan Putski. Cover story: Rhodes vs. Garvin. PLUS: Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR POSTER: Superstar Graham. Cover story: Mil Mascaras. PLUS: Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR POSTER: Cowboy Bob Orton. Cover story: Rick Martel. PLUS: Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

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October 1983/COLOR POSTER: Junkyard Dog. Cover story: Tommy Rich. PLUS: Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR POSTER: Roddy Piper. Cover story: Harley Race. PLUS: Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

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October 1984/COLOR POSTER: Billy Jack. Cover story: Kerry Von Erich. PLUS: Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

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MAY 1985

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- PWI/December 1983
- PWI/January 1984
- PWI/February 1984
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



Ivan Koloff tries to disguise a chokehold as a front facelock in one of his many matches against Manny Fernandez.

would be guessing and counter with a different combination. Actually, all the guessing and counter-guessing didn't really matter; statistically, the challengers would have only a 33 percent chance of predicting which two men they would be facing.

Manny Fernandez was among the many wrestlers who was extremely outspoken about this injustice. It was Fernandez and Dusty Rhodes, remember, who lost the tag team belts to Ivan and Nikita Koloff in March. "This whole thing was ridiculous," Fernandez said. "It was Ivan and Nikita who won the title—and I don't even want to talk about how they won it. The first time they used Khrushchev, I thought the NWA would strip them of their title, or at least hit them with a heavy fine and a stiff warning. But they never said a thing about it. Those Russians had the NWA intimidated."

Perhaps. Or maybe there was political pressure being applied from the outside to prevent further chill to the cold war. Either way, I found the whole situation embarrassing. When three anti-Ameri-

cans (two Russians and a Russian sympathizer) are given an unfair advantage over Americans by an American-based organization, something has to be done.

Manny Fernandez has talked time and again about the match in which he and Rhodes were cheated out of the NWA tag team title by the Koloffs, and obviously he doesn't want to talk about it anymore, but I do. With referee Tommy Young injured and unable to supervise the action, Ivan took on Manny inside the ring while Dusty and Nikita battled on the arena floor. Manny took the advantage over Ivan, but when he attempted to pin the veteran Russian, Khrushchev interfered in the match, leaping upon Manny's back from the turnbuckles. As Khrushchev saw referee Young beginning to regain consciousness, he placed Ivan on top of Manny and scurried out of the ring. Young, who missed all of this, made the three-count and declared new champions.

Now this match was taped, and the NWA officials knew that what had happened was illegal. Yet they did nothing about it. Another case of Russians receiving preferential treatment over Americans. When it came time to decide if the Russians should be permitted to share the title among three people, maybe they used the match against Rhodes and Fernandez as evidence in their favor. After all, Khrushchev played as much of a roll in the title change as the Koloffs did!

It was about five years ago, if memory serves, when The Freebirds incorporated their three-man tag team and claimed the legal right to use any two men of their choosing to defend their Georgia National tag team championship. They hired expensive lawyers who



Robert Gibson and Rick Morton are commended by Stu Saks for ending the Koloffs' embarrassing title reign.

intimidated the NWA into a passive position. Seeing the possibility of a lengthy legal battle, the NWA did not rule against The Freebirds. Thus, a precedent was set, although it wasn't taken advantage of until the teaming of Koloff, Koloff, and Khrushchev. It's a fitting irony that the Russians' unethical plan for NWA dominance was actually the cause of their demise. Ivan and Nikita Koloff were the best tag team combination the Russians could put into a ring. Khrushchev is good, but Ivan and Nikita are both Koloffs and they are both native-born Russians. While Ivan spent two months training his nephew for an NWA World title match with Ric Flair, the NWA World tag team title became secondary. Ivan Koloff, the brains behind the triumvirate, made a serious error in underestimating the challenge of Morton and Gibson, the former Mid-South tag team titlists.

The Russians got greedy and, as a result, careless. Now that they are no longer champions, the NWA doesn't have to be embarrassed to address the situation anymore. Now maybe the most respected wrestling organization in the world will get tough. □

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MAGNUM T.A.

(Continued from page 35)

Von Erich actually achieved the seemingly impossible on May 6, 1984.

But repeated title shots ended in repeated frustration. T.A.'s nerves were becoming rattled. His judgment was suffering. And other top NWA competitors noticed this—and capitalized on it.

In the October 1985 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling*, Magnum T.A. analyzed one of his matches in a feature entitled, "Magnum T.A.'s Painful Lesson: Buddy Landell Is Not Ric Flair." In that story, Magnum said the following:



That match bugs me, it really does. There's no way I should have been in the trouble I was during that match. I expect that kind of trouble against Flair, but I didn't expect it against Landell. I've got to get that decisive victory over Landell, or else I'll never be able to step into that ring against Flair and give it my total concentration. I've got to put Landell behind me, once and for all.

But while T.A. was wrestling with the mental block that prevented him from achieving a clear-cut victory over Buddy Landell, he was also training for additional title shots against Flair—and he was training simultaneously for defenses of his own U.S. heavy-



Flair uses all his strength to counter T.A.'s attempted backslide (opposite page). Flair once again shows his championship heart as he ignores his injuries and successfully defends his title (above).

weight title.

Tully Blanchard certainly recognized the fact that Magnum was overextending himself. On July 21, Tully captured the U.S. title from Magnum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"I see an opportunity, I jump on it," Blanchard told *Inside Wrestling*. "Magnum was a basket case by the time July rolled around. He's just not capable of defending the U.S. title, challenging Flair, and worrying about half a dozen mental blocks. Yeah, I knew he was ready for defeat. Hell, it was like taking candy from a baby—or a kiss from a Baby Doll! Hahaha!"

And now, as Magnum learns to contend with life without the U.S. title, and with the knowledge of repeated failure in his campaign against Flair, he's got to make some important decisions in his career.

"Frankly, I don't know which way to turn right now," he said. "I go to sleep at night and I ask myself why I should bother. Sometimes I wake up and that feeling is gone, but just as many times I wake up and that feeling of despair is still there."

"This is a turning point in my career. I realize that. I have to work on my priorities right now. I have to decide whether I want to keep challenging Flair, or whether

I want to devote my time to getting back the U.S. title from Blanchard. Or—you know, now that Terry Taylor is in the World Championship area, someone suggested to me that we form a tag team. I don't know about that. That's possible, too. Anything's possible.

"See, when I had the U.S. title and when I was challenging Flair, I had a definite purpose. Now I don't have a definite purpose. It's tough. You get used to things. I was getting used to a life of U.S. title defenses and world title matches. Now that life is gone. Maybe the fact I was used to it is what cost me. I don't know. I really don't know.

"Maybe Tully is right," Magnum conceded, "maybe I can't hack that kind of a life. Maybe I did spread myself too thin. All I know now is that I have to make some serious decisions about my career. And it's killing me now, because I just don't know which way to turn."

When Magnum does make his decisions, they will determine the entire future of his wrestling career. They will determine whether he regains his footing as the premier young star in the NWA, or whether he tumbles over the side of that cliff to a fate too painful to imagine. □

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RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 37)

ting is dangerous as all hell. Without the constant training and practice, you miss a step coming off the rope and—bam!—you got yourself a broken neck. Ricky's playing with fire. I'd rather see him retire than wrestle part-time."

For over two years, Steamboat hedged between careers, luckily avoiding any serious injury but also not realizing his vast potential. In the early part of 1985, Steamboat, after living in indecision for so long, resolved to rejuvenate his career in the WWF. He said at the time, "I've got my whole life to run a gym, but I'll only be able to fly around the ring for a couple of years. I don't want any regrets later on. I'm coming back."

Realizing the WWF policy of not matching fan favorites together, Steamboat didn't see any possibility of a match with WWF World champion Hulk Hogan. Rather, he set his sights on Greg Valentine and the Intercontinental championship. "I knew Valentine very well from the Carolinas," Steamboat said, "and I knew that I could beat him. Tito, Junkyard Dog, and I were all shooting for Valentine, but I thought I could step right in and take it."

Steamboat enjoyed the same kind of reception in the WWF as he did in the NWA, and in no time at all his wrestling skills and martial artistry had moved him up the rankings in line for a title shot against Valentine. In fact, Steamboat did engage in several title bouts against Valentine, and in each one of them he seemed to be moving inexorably toward a victory and a title.

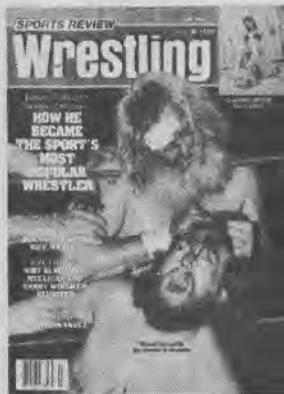
Then Tito Santana, who had failed in several rematch attempts since losing the title to Valentine last September, surprised many observers of the WWF—Steamboat

(Continued on page 60)

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RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 58)



As Steamboat locks up Magnificent Muraco's arm, he seems to be thinking about the Intercontinental title, which is now held by his friend Tito Santana (inset). Will the WWF ever match up these two fan favorites?

probably included—by defeating Valentine in a spectacular cage match in Baltimore. Steamboat was now faced with the same dilemma that dozens of other rule-abiding wrestlers faced after they had reached the number-one contender's position: There was no champion to wrestle. Hogan was out and now Santana, who was also a popular fan favorite, was out.

It is a sad possibility that Steamboat, without a championship to hold his attention, will begin to think more about the business in Charlotte that is presently being run by his family. For a championship wrestler, it makes no sense to wrestle in an area without a championship.

His only hope of getting a title match in the WWF seems to be if Magnificent Muraco, who has

made no secret of his desire to become the first three-time Intercontinental champion, wins the title from Santana. Ironically, it was Steamboat's sensational showings against Muraco that cemented his position as the top challenger to Valentine's title. Now he seems to be depending on a man whom, by rights, he should be ahead of in the ratings.

Although we've encouraged them before to change their policy regarding the matchmaking of two fan favorites, we now implore the WWF to alter a policy that is absolutely nonsensical in its rationale. The WWF is the only federation to deny its fans the pleasure of seeing a well-fought scientific match between two popular opponents. Tito Santana vs. Ricky Steamboat would be a great place to start. □

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KABUKI-ADAMS

(Continued from page 31)



Kabuki pivots on his left foot and sends a karate thrust directly into the throat of Gino Hernandez. Gino is concerned that Adams' obsession with Kabuki will lead to his and Chris' demise as the World Class tag team champions.

kick contest, and the action is as fast-paced and violent as in the match that took place four days earlier. The major difference being that Adams no longer possessed the World Class American title, having lost it to Iceman Parsons the day after his July 4 encounter with Kabuki.

Every few moments, Gino would walk quickly to the dressing room door that leads to the path heading to the ring. Once there, he could catch a glimpse of the action in the ring. When he returned to his dressing room, he wasn't happy.

"I didn't want Chris to take this match tonight," Gino said. "July 4 was bad enough, but this is getting out of hand. This feud already cost Chris the American title; I don't want to be dragged down by it. We've got to concentrate on our tag team matches, and this is going to hurt us if we keep going on this way."

Adams and Hernandez captured the

World Class tag team belts on June 24 from Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers, but Adams' matches with Kabuki overshadowed the team's title defenses in the days following that victory.

Gino paced back to the door and looked toward the ring. In an instant, a look of shock and horror crossed his face. "That damn . . ." Gino was off like a shot, running toward the ring to bail out Adams, who was in bad trouble from Kabuki's vicious martial arts attack.

As soon as Gino jumped onto the ring apron, however, Kabuki cracked him in the chest with a karate thrust.

It was a bad night for the World Class tag team champs: Both Hernandez and Adams had fallen to the power of Kabuki.

And minutes later, in the Kabuki-free safety of their dressing room, Hernandez and Adams were plotting their revenge. A new chapter in World Class wrestling history was just beginning. □

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THE FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 43)



Hayes leaves his feet and allows all of his 255 pounds to drop on Gagne's head (above). Hayes has his way with Greg outside the ring (opposite page).

opportunity to step into the ring with him personally—and even then, Hayes is a difficult man to convince.

So to say that Hayes wasn't impressed by the comments of Paul Ellering would indeed be an understatement.

"Who in the hell does *Precious* Paul Ellering think he is, anyway? Maybe we should ask him to prove himself to us, right? After all, who have the Warriors beaten lately? Curt and Larry Hennig? Sgt. Slaughter and Jerry Blackwell? I mean, let's be serious, they beat Crusher and Baron Von Raschke for the tag team title. Crusher and Von Raschke! *Hahaha!* That's the funniest thing I heard since somebody told me Gregg was gonna have Cher play with the Allmans!"

"Listen, me and Bamm Bamm [Terry Gordy] and Jack [Buddy Roberts], we'll take the Legion of Doom for a walk down Badstreet any ol' time they want to go. And we're not even gonna make them show us what they can do first. But I'll tell you what: In the spirit of

Southern hospitality, me and the boys'll put on a little demonstration for *Precious Paul*.

"All anyone has to do is come on up to New Jersey and see what we do to a couple of boys by the names of Hacksaw Duggan, Curt Hennig, and Greg Gagne. From what I understand, *Precious Paul* won't even be there with his Warriors. I wonder what he's afraid of?"

"*Precious Paul*. Ha! The only other person I know named 'Precious' is a little blonde down Texas way. Hahaha!"

Paul Ellering and The Road Warriors were *not* on the same card as The Fabulous Freebirds when the 'Birds made their first appearance in New Jersey's Meadowlands Arena.



It was a most impressive debut. In short, they dismantled the team of Hacksaw Duggan, Curt Hennig, and Greg Gagne.

"Ain't no way three skinny wimps like that can give us Badstreeters a hard time," said Terry Gordy. "This match was like a day in the country for us—and that gives you a little bit of an idea what Freebirds like to do in the country!"

During the postmatch press conference, Hayes was basking in the glory of the victory when he noticed a man standing against the wall in the back of the dressing room, a man that he hadn't seen before.

"Hey, you! Yeah, you! Wake up, brother! I ain't never seen you back here before. Who you with?"

The man replied with quiet politeness. "I'm just here to cover the matches tonight, just like everyone else in this room."

"You work for Ellering, don't you?"

The man remained silent.

"Yeah, well you probably do. Well, when you go back to Ellering, tell him this. In fact, pencil jockeys, you all tell this to Ellering if you see him: Take tonight as an example. We Badstreet 'Birds were a flock of Southern gentlemen tonight. We demolished those three clowns without breaking any bones—that's gentlemanly, ain't it?"

"Well, tell Ellering this: We want The Road Warriors. We want them in the ring, and we want their tag team belts. The Warriors been riding high in the AWA, but that's only because there hasn't been any team there that can challenge 'em. We're in the AWA now, and we're challenging them. And that means that the AWA belts are gonna be the 'Birds' belts, and I mean soon!"

Apparently Ellering got the message: Several days after the Freebirds' match with Duggan, Hennig and Gagne, Ellering sent a set of match contracts to Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts. One of those contracts was for a Meadowlands match to take place between the Warriors and Hayes and Gordy, with Paul Ellering and Buddy Roberts staked at ringside for the match. You can read about the results of that match in the pages of the November 1985 Sports Review Wrestling, on sale September 24. □

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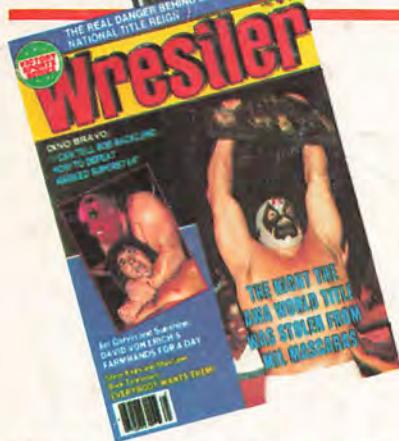
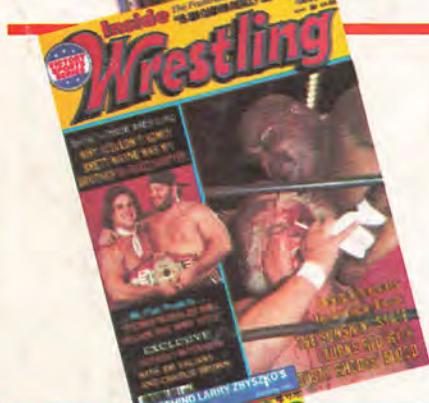
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